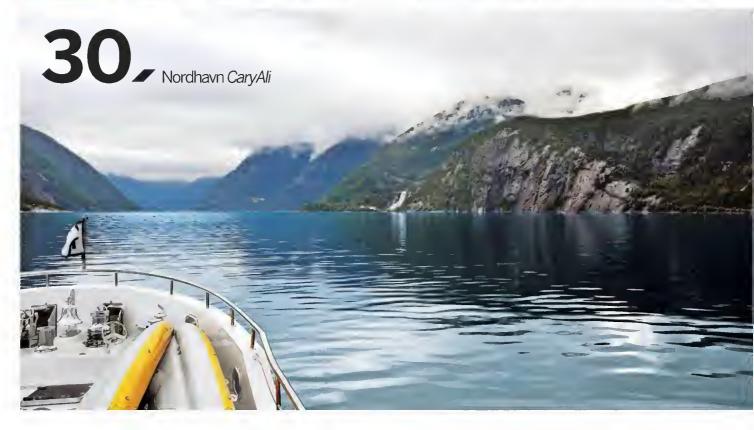




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Be there for the launch of the Flyer Gran Turismo at the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show October 27-31. For more information visit FlyerGranTurismo.com. Enquiries; 410,990.0270 or Power@Beneteau.com.

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Top photo courtesy of Fireboy; Bottom photo courtesy of Fugawi



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IS THE U.S. NO LONGER THE WORLD'S NUMBER-ONE BOATING COUNTRY?

### **Only in America**

This job isn't all bright sunshine, blue sky, and bodacious boats. There's another side too, exemplified by the dozen or so boat shows we attend every year. The show loca-

tions-Cannes, Genoa, London, Monaco, Sydney—sound glamorous but they have their commercial aspects too. Besides first looks at new models, these foreign exhibitions offer a global business perspective because for builders there, export is such an important part of their livelihoods.

A disturbing theme at this year's European shows was the virtual writing off of the U.S. market for 2012 and maybe beyond. Many foreign builders feel our economy and political system are so mucked up that even if we can manage to get things back on track, it'll be a long time before Americans feel secure enough to spend big dollars on big boats.



So where do these builders plan to turn? The

same place as everyone else—BRIC. That's Brazil, Russia, India, and China, where many European builders already have sales offices and even factories. Seems logical. After all, as I write this the International Monetary Fund projects 2012 GDP growth rates of 9.5 percent for China and 4.1 percent for Brazil, compared to just 1.1 percent for the 17 Eurozone countries and 1.8 percent for the United States. That could logically translate into more BRIC people with more disposable income, allowing them to purchase more luxury items, like boats.

Yet emerging markets face their own hurdles, like inflation, entrenched bureaucracies, corruption, political instability, and income disparity. Brazil's economy is strong right now, but its middle class is only about one-third the size of ours. Russia, India, and China have a near-total lack of infrastructure such as marinas and boatyards.

Then there's mentality. When Chinese and Indian consumers buy boats, they often don't know what to do with them because they value them not as recreational vehicles, as we Americans do, but as stationary status symbols. A 120-footer I recently toured is a perfect example. With nearly 7,500 total horsepower, she's capable of over 30 knots, yet according to her captain, her Chinese owner will use her only for business meetings and dinners, and she may never even leave the harbor.

Of course, we've got our own problems. But any builder who writes off the whole of the U.S. turns his back on the world's largest group of dedicated, experienced, and knowledgeable boaters, people who have both the means to purchase boats and the mentality to use and appreciate them. On that basis, no other country compares with the United States. PMY

tus &

Capt. Richard Thiel Editor-in-Chief



475 Sport Yacht

#### Intrepid's Revolutionary Outboard Sport Yachts



For over 25 years, Intrepid has been the unrivalled leader in boating quality, innovation and performance - our revolutionary outboard sport yachts being a remarkably appealing case in point. Each offers a one-of-a-kind combination of speedboat thrills with yacht-class accommodations, enhanced by the quiet, convenience and fuel efficiency of outboard power. Add the highest resale values to the most accommodating build-to-suit and owner support programs in the industry and the only question becomes, which can we customize for you?



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390 Sport Yacht



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HAVE A COMMENT OR SUGGESTION? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

### **Stranger Than Fiction**

My wife and I were enjoying a cold beverage on the upper deck of Kevin Barry's Pub in Savannah, Georgia, overlooking the Riverwalk and the Savannah River. Moored in front of us was a comely

yacht, and as we are wont to do, we pulled out the old iPad and checked her out. Built in 1999 and as luck would have it, for sale for "only" \$9.75 million. After checking our lotto numbers, we realized we'd have to wait another week for the purchase, so I returned to reading my September *PMY*, specifically, the article "Distant Shores." As always, I found it to be

very interesting, especially when I got to the part about your author almost being crushed by a big green Burger materializing from the fog. Take a look at this picture (right), and I think you will see why.

Sometimes life is too strange for words.



Strange indeed. It appears there are at least two Sea Owls, including the Burger our author encountered and the Delta you found online. And note, that the near-crushing by our Sea Owl was strictly our fault.—Ed.

#### FLOATING AN OPINION

Bravo on your October Leadline. ("Choices Good and Bad") I too am an avid motorcyclist who believes that adults should have the right to decide what safety measures to employ. Whether it's a PFD or helmet, we do not need the government deciding for us. We were helmet-less here in Maryland when I started riding, but our legislators buckled under the pressure of the Feds' threats to withhold highway funding in the '80s. We took that freedom for granted and are now in a yearly battle to get it back. I urge the boating community to voice their wants before they are decided for you. If you oppose an adult PFD law, write and speak out now... removing a law is far harder than preventing its passing in the first place.

JOE MCHENRY COBE MARINE PASADENA, MARYLAND

#### MORE POWER TO YA

Being lifelong sailors, my wife and I really enjoyed reading "Sea Change" [September 2011]. As we are getting older we are now beginning to look at powerboat alternatives to our 62-foot ketch, so the Chadwick's experiences were really interesting. And the Marlow they picked





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#### **Boaters Online**

California boaters Tom and Nancy Caruso retraced Lewis and Clark's groundbreaking cross-country expedition in their powerboat, from the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers across the Rockies and into Oregon.

You can see the results at getinspiredinc.org.

#### In-Print | Online

Coming next issue we've got electronics galore, plus learn about the hottest gadgets, including the Humphree Interceptor trim system, NMEA 2000 instruments, and more. And in this issue our editors reveal their picks for the best stuff they saw at the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. Scheduled boat tests include the Cruisers 41 Cantius (an exclusive), Carver 44 Sojourn, Sunseeker Manhattan 53, and Riviera 61. Check out pmymag.com for our editors' blogs as well as our boat-test archive, a one-of-a-kind tool for helping you determine which boat you should buy next. Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter to track our adventures.



## CRUISE THE VIRGIN ISLANDS ABOARD A POWER CAT FOR FREE!

Here's your chance to win a seven-day learn-and-cruise vacation for four people in the British Virgin Islands. The grand prize offered by The Moorings and Offshore Power Cruise School is a cruise aboard a Moorings 474 power cat in the BVI. The first two days include instruction on how to handle the boat, after which you and three guests will have five days to explore the islands, enjoying all the BVI have to offer. Visit www.moorings.com/WinPower for rules. The contest ends on January 15, 2012.

would make a wonderful replacement boat for us. I hope you'll occasionally run more stories of their adventures.

By the way, we have been loyal and enthusiastic readers of *PMY* for years. We feel its articles on technical topics like electronics are far better than those of any sailing magazine. So keep up the good work, and soon we may be writing you for advice on our new motoryacht!

#### BILL AND DOTTIE WEYMOUTH

S/V MORNING STARR

Keep an eye out for more from the Chadwicks in an upcoming issue.—Ed.



THIS MONTH'S WINNER:

JIM WOOD

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## NEWS

He was

taking lessons...

supposedly

VOLVO PENTA | GLOBAL SATELLITE USA | SEA RAY | GRUNDÉNS



## Bye-Bye Fly-By Guy

TEXT BY BRAD DUNN

What would you do if a singleengine plane looked like it had lost control and was heading straight for your cruiser? Take evasive action? Jump overboard? Several boaters did both near South Padre

Island, Texas—after which the pilot pulled up at the last minute and flew away.

Rodolfo Gonzalez-Gonzalez, a 20-year-old novice pilot, was arrested in September for allegedly buzzing three boats in southern Texas. Police say the Mexico City man flew his small plane very low near Port Mansfield, as if he were going to crash into the boats, and then pulled up before hitting them.

Many of the 13 boaters on the three boats jumped into the water to avoid the apparent collision. When they realized it was just a dangerous stunt, they called the sheriff.

"When we learned he was going to land at the Cameron County Airport at Bayview, we called the Cameron County Sheriff's Office, and they arrested him," Sheriff Larry Spence said, according to the Houston Chronicle.

Gonzalez-Gonzalez, who had only recently earned his pilot's license, reportedly rented the plane to practice takeoffs and landings. "He was supposedly taking flying lessons at the Weslaco airport where he got the plane," Spence said.

Although the culprit told authorities he was flying with another person, there was no instructor with him when he was arrested at the airport. "It gets weirder as it goes along," Spence said. Several frightened boaters told police they saw two people in the cockpit, while others said he was alone.

Recklessly buzzing boats is no petty crime. Police charged the pilot with 13 counts of aggravated assault and held him on \$650,000 bond. If convicted, he could face up to 20 years in prison. At presstime, federal authorities are considering charges as well. PMY



#### Sea Ray Adds 22 Dealers to Global Network

In a hopeful sign of the times, the Sea Ray Group, which consists of the Sea Ray and Meridian Yacht brands, has signed 22 new dealers around the world-16 of which are in the United States and Canada. "Our never-ending focus on outstanding customer satisfaction, product quality, and service is what makes Sea Ray and Meridian the best-selling brands in the marine industry," said Rob Parmentier, president of the Sea Ray Group.



#### ■ Volvo Penta Delivers 4,000th IPS Unit

Six years after introducing its IPS engine-drive package, Volvo Penta announced that it had shipped its 4,000th unit this summer. The engine manufacturer says its IPS package has replaced shaft-and-strut propulsion on thousands of



#### **Not Pulling Your Leg!**

A Wisconsin woman was fishing this summer when she reeled in a prosthetic leg. She called some local shops and tracked down the woman who had lost the leg three years earlier while swimming.



**QUIZ** 

How many folks did Capt. Bunting ferry in 36 years on Niagra Falls' Maid of the Mist?

How wide of an arc must your side navigation lights illuminate?



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## **NEWS**

#### TEXT BY BILL PIKE

## Grundéns Weather Watch Rain Gear

This lightweight foulweather jacket will stay dry inside and out, and it's easily packable.

've been into salty-looking foul-weather jackets ever since I saw the famous (and occasionally infamous) cruising sailor Tristan Jones wearing one with a dark-blue hue, a dashingly high collar, and an unmistakable Helly Hansen logo at the New York Boat Show back in about 1990. But I've had one big problem with almost every look-alike I've owned: They've all been so rain-resistant that every time I've worn them for more than ten minutes I've darn near

But back in July, a guy sent me a Gage foul-weather jacket from Grundéns—the folks who make hardcore stuff for Bering Sea crab fishermen and other commercial types. The guy promised me that the thing's fabric was so lightweight and breathable I'd notice hardly a drop of sweat. "It's part of the new lightweight Grundéns Weather Watch collection," he explained. "You'll like it."

sweated to death, even under chilly conditions.

Florida and Scotland are the two venues I've tested it in thus far. Now I'm not contending I had a thoroughly no-sweat experience in the former location. But my Gage Weather Watch did parry the rains of northern Florida with duck's-back effectiveness and generated very little perspiration upon my torso while doing so, even during the



summer months. And Scotland in the fall? Well, not only did I stay just as dry there, my hands stayed warm as well, thanks to some large outside pockets. Moreover, the highimpact of my jacket's yellow color—splashy colors make sense at sea as they enhance visibility—was well-proved in Edinburgh. "Bright coat you're wearing, mate," remarked a passerby, out of the blue. Cost of the Gage Weather Watch jacket? Just \$53, according to Grundéns. PMY

#### **■ GRUNDÉNS**

(800) 323-7327. WWW.GRUNDENS.COM. boats, making them more maneuverable, fuel efficient, quieter, cleaner, and easier to drive. "Volvo Penta IPS fundamentally changed the marine marketplace," said Clint Moore, CEO of Volvo Penta of the Americas. "For the first time in my experience, consumers start the boat-show buying experience at our booth, asking us which boat brands are available with Volvo Penta IPS. [IPS] owners report significantly higher overall satisfaction than owners of cruisers with traditional inboard propulsion." The 4,000th IPS unit was installed in a Cruisers 48 Cantius.



#### Global Satellite Launches Phone Trade-Up Program

You have until the end of December to trade in your old satellite phone—any brand—for a brand-new Global Satellite phone. "We ran a program like this several years ago and it was a huge success," says Martin Firestone, CEO of Global Satellite USA, "With our large engineering department, we have the capability of assessing the value of the phone and provide a quick turnaround to our customers." All new phones must have a two-year service plan with Global Satellite USA and there is an earlytermination fee of \$750. To find out how much your phone is worth, e-mail sales@globalsatellite.us.

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December 3 - 11

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**DEPARTMENTS** 

JUST LAUNCHED DESIGN MEGAYACHTS

BIG AND THE

# BOATS

**HENRIQUES 42' CHARTER FOUNTAINE PAJOT 55 MONTE CARLO YACHTS 65 BOSTON WHALER 285 MARLOW YACHTS 61E MK2** 



## **EXCLUSIVE** Henriques 42' Charter

#### If there is one thing integral to Portuguese history and culture

it is boats. And more to the point, fishing. It is not surprising then that when Jack Henriques immigrated to the United States from Portugal in his 20s, he quickly set up shop constructing the same type of rugged, seaworthy boats that his family had been building for generations. His first model, produced in 1977, was a 35-foot Down East-style boat dubbed the Maine Coaster. It's a testament to the Henriques brand that 34 years later the company is still churning out similar boats, though modernized for today's serious fisherman.

The company's latest launch, the Maine Coaster 42' Charter, is an excellent choice for the fisherman who likes to fish with others, either for pay or for play. She's available with a 360degree walkaround layout that makes on-deck maneuverability a snap, even with many lines in the water. Roomy cockpits have always been a staple of Henriques boats, and this model is no different. The space offers two fishboxes that can be refrigerated, a transom door, and a head that opens to the outdoors, which will no doubt come in handy with large groups onboard.

The fully enclosed saloon is designed for rough-weather conditions. A spacious helm has two chairs, while the aft section features additional seating and stowage for all the necessary trappings a charter or pleasure-fishing trip could need. As for accommodations, the 42' is ready to handle an overnight trip to the canyons or beyond. Two staterooms below share a head that has an enclosed shower. A wood-trimmed galley should help keep anglers happy and sated while they're waiting to bend a rod.

The 42' is powered by two John Deere diesel inboards, which should give you peace of mind

LOA: 42'0" 14'9" **BEAM:** 3'8"

**DRAFT:** 

STD. POWER: 2/550-hp John Deere

diesel inboards

SPEED: 36 mph PRICE: Upon request

and also a bit of a burst too, with a top speed of just over 36 mph. A reported cruise speed of 32 mph should have you to the fishing grounds in no time; even better, fuel burn at that clip is just 42 gph, which will keep costs from chewing into profits should you use this boat commercially.

With stand-out running numbers, ample accommodations, and enough usable fishing space to support a large guest list, the latest Henriques Maine Coaster seems like a boat worthy of that name. PMY

#### **■ HENRIQUES YACHTS**

(732) 269-1180. WWW.HENRIQUESYACHTS.NET.





## Fountaine Pajot Queensland 55

## Anyone who has ever spent time on a long-range cruise

knows well that stability is hard to overrate as a comfort factor. That's why it should come as no surprise that boatbuilders are beginning to turn out more and more catamaran trawlers, which offer incredible stability with the added bonus of improved fuel economy. One such new boat is the Queensland 55 from Fountaine Pajot, the flagship of the French builder's Trawler Catamaran line. She's equipped with twin Volvo Penta IPS600s, and the company claims the boat consumes 40 percent less fuel than a similarly sized monohull. An added benefit of employing an IPS system on a cat is that the props are spaced farther apart than they would be on a monohull, which provides greater maneuverability—an advantage on any boat.

The 55 also has a feature that should make environmentally conscious boaters very happy: a solar panel on the sun awning that can reportedly produce enough power to avoid the use of a generator while at at anchor (assuming of course, you've picked a sunny anchorage). Meanwhile, the boat's 25'6" beam is put to full use, particularly on that expansive flying bridge, as well as in the cockpit, where a large dining table can comfortably seat a passel of guilt-free guests. Stability, comfort, maneuverability, and a commitment to a cleaner planet—not a bad combination for any boat. Maybe it's time you made like a dog and chased after this cat. PMY

#### **■ FOUNTAINE PAJOT**

(+33) 609 79 13 49. WWW.FOUNTAINE-PAJOT.COM.

## EXCLUSIVE Monte Carlo Yachts 65

#### Hot on the heels of the muchlauded Monte Carlo Yachts 76

comes the 65, a boat the company hopes will strengthen its reputation for building understatedly elegant yachts that are as functional as they are highly styled.

Once again MCY paired with the famed design team Nuvolari-Lenard to create lines that are both muscular and sophisticated, evoking a distinct "naval" impression, as the company describes it. Key to this design is a pulpit-less, flared bow that effectively mitigates spray while looking like it means business.

Onboard the theme of masculine elegance is furthered by 22 perfectly coordinated materials, including rich walnut and gray-oak joinery and plush brown and gray leathers. Armani Casa and Rubelli supplied most of the fabrics including those in the full-beam amidships



master cabin. A VIP cabin with queen berth and a guest cabin with twin berths complete the accommodations deck. Both spaces have en suite heads for the utmost privacy.

Topside the 65 features one particularly interesting design point: an aft galley at the entrance to the saloon that can service both the interior and the exterior with equal ease. Also in the saloon is a dinette near the galley, as well as a lounge area with a C-shape sofa forward. A side door leads to one of the boat's side decks making foredeck access a cinch. That area contains a Portuguese bridge as well as generous sunbathing and lounge areas.

Up top, a spacious flying bridge may be

the highlight of the entire boat. Shaded by a carbon-fiber hardtop with a sunroof that opens electrically, the area contains plenty of seating and can be outfitted with a fridge, barbecue, and sink.

The 65's not all about amenities though. Twin MAN V-8s can get her up to 36 mph at WOT with a cruise of 31 mph. Not bad for a boat of this class—particularly one with this kind of luxury. It shouldn't be a surprise if the 65 is soon just as popular as her big sister. PMY

#### ■ MONTE CARLO YACHTS USA (443) 924-0797.

WWW.MONTECARLOYACHTS.IT.

**WorldMags** 

### **BOATS**

## Boston Whaler 285 Conquest

#### As much as any other manufacturer in the boatbuilding

game, Boston Whaler has staked its reputation on building rugged and seakindly boats. In particular, the company sets itself apart with the bold proclamation that their boats are "unsinkable." That's a lofty title to uphold but one which the company's new 285 Conquest looks to live up to.

Constructed with Boston Whaler's patented Unibond system, the 285, like her sisterships, is promised to be unsinkable—a nice feature for peace of mind. But she's focused on more than just safety. Her designers raised her sheerline to give her a muscular look to fit with her rugged reputation and also integrated her hardtop and windshield for increased protection. A large cockpit should delight offshore anglers as it's got



plenty of room to maneuver in, as well as seating for the entire crew and then some. A livewell and twin fishboxes come standard while a slideout hardtop is available to fend off the sun.

The 285's deep hull allows her more accommodation room than some other boats in her class, space she uses to her advantage with a convertible V-berth forward that should serve nicely if any fishermen need a nap. After all, the whole reason they make boats this tough is because fishing is a tough business. PMY

LOA: 27'10" 9'6" **BEAM:** 1'8" DRAFT:

STD. POWER: 2/225-hp Mercury

Verados

SPEED: 46 mph PRICE: Upon request

#### **BOSTON WHALER**

(386) 428-0057. WWW.BOSTONWHALER.COM.

## Marlow Yachts 61E MK2

#### Marlow Yachts' highly regarded Explorer series has been at the

cutting edge of long-range cruisers for quite some time now, building a loyal following of owners who prize the boats for their luxury, dependability, aesthetics, and outstanding seakeeping ability. With their newest redesign, the 61E MK2, it looks to improve on those attributes.

The MK2 should have the same exceptional performance and seakindliness as her predecessor, the 61E, since she effectively has the same hull. Voyages, whether in calm or relatively rough water, should be fairly serene then, in keeping with the Explorer series tradition.

One of the major changes the boat will see, however, is in the accommodations deck layout which will now have two spacious staterooms (a master and a VIP) separated by a foyer. The layout will be particularly appealing to a cruising couple who may want to bring along another

couple as they hop from glamorous port to isolated cay. There are also crew's quarters aft, though that might be superfluous since many owners understandably will be inclined to run

this boat on their own.

Those onboard will no doubt appreciate the L-shape settee and barbecue on the flying bridge, which creates the perfect venue for a relaxing meal with friends, replete with excellent views. Down below, a slightly less relaxing venue—the engine room—contains a workbench and separate toolbox that will surely come in handy on the long voyages this boat

**Specifications** LOA: 69'2"

**BEAM:** 18'2" 4'11" **DRAFT: STD. POWER: 2/575-mhp** 

CAT C9s

SPEED: 32 mph PRICE: Upon request

was born to undertake. PMY

#### **■ MARLOW YACHTS**

(800) 362-2657. WWW.MARLOWEXPLORER.COM. Top photo courtesy of Boston Whaler; Bottom photo courtesy of Marlow Yachts



## SMART, BRIGHT AND WELL CONNECTED

The New i70 Multifunction Instrument



#### Multifunction



Intuitive and easy to customize displays of depth, speed, wind and more

#### Oversized LCD



Ultra bright 4" LCD with extra large digits and a wide viewing angle

#### **AIS Integration**



The world's first instrument with AIS target tracking capability



Raymarine

QUALITY

**WorldMags** 

## **BOATS**

TEXT BY ALYSSA HAAK

#### **NEW LAUNCH**

ABEKING & RASMUSSEN 60-METER KAISER

#### Based on her German name, it's hardly surprising that the

60-meter Kaiser was launched by a German shipyard—Abeking & Rasmussen. At the owner's direction, the interior design features touches of late 19th-century German antiques and decorations, and the designers at Bannenberg & Rowell Designs were able to combine those turn-of-the-century elements into a vibrant and modern interior.

At the amidships fover, an inlaid marble calligraphic K features an ornate pattern that is mirrored in the main staircase's inlaid wood walls and steel handrail, both crafted by A&R subsidiary Rotec. Inset in the doors are also antique stainless steel Jugendstil-patterned slabs. To keep these details from becoming dark and overwhelming the designers used bright pops of color such as the curved orange



skylounge sofa or the reds and greens of the main saloon. Another trick was to create intimate conversation spaces throughout this high-volume yacht. There's a four-person table tucked into a corner of the skylounge and a small sitting area off the owner's suite. Either is a perfect nook for the owner's lucky guests to claim as their own. PMY

LOA: 197'0" 35'0" **BEAM:** DRAFT: 11'6"

**STD. POWER:** 2/1,876-hp CATs

#### ABEKING & RASMUSSEN

(+49) 421 7633-0. WWW.ABEKING.COM.

#### **NEW LAUNCH**

**CIZGI YACHTS** 42-METER E&E

#### The first launch from Turkish shipyard Cizgi Yachts, the

42-meter E&E, also debuted at this year's Monaco Yacht Show. Her explorer-style exterior, designed by Vripack, is easy to picture against a rugged backdrop. But she sports an elegant interior by Art-Line with surprises behind every door and the small innovations that the Dutch firm is known for. Open a dayhead door and a beautifully crafted stone sink is revealed. The round dining table expands by adding leaves around the outer edge. The repeated circular pattern can be found on that main table, the backlit marble around the master bed, and the main saloon.

The deck plans are unconventional but suit the needs and desires of the owner, which is



what custom boatbuilding is all about. On the upper deck, open a door expecting to find the bridge and you instead find a forward-facing skylounge. All four of the guest cabins, each with exterior access, are on the same upper deck. The captain gets his own deck with his cabin and the bridge, and the crew get the lower deck with roomy cabins. PMY

LOA: 137'0" **BEAM:** 30'0" DRAFT: 12'4"

STD. POWER: 2/750-hp CATs

#### CIZGI YACHTS

(+90) 216 494 53 42. WWW.CIZGIYACHT.COM.

Theck out www.pmymag.com for interior photos of these megayachts.



## GEAR+

THAT RINGING YOU'RE HEARING ISN'T JUST IN YOUR EARS.



**FIREBOY** 

TEXT BY ALYSSA HAAK

## **Fire Suppression**

Having a smoke detector on your boat does more than let you know when dinner is ready. A centralized system can alert you to problems in areas that tend to be out of sight (and out of mind). The sooner the problem is announced, the sooner you can find a solution. Fireboy sells networked alarm and extinguishing systems that first alert you to a problem and then, if it's a fire in your engine room (or other enclosed space up to 3,000 cubic feet), put it out quickly. The extinguishing systems use gas as opposed to dry chemicals, which can leave a messy residue. And by squelching the fire quickly, you'll have less damage and a much easier clean-up job. The company also offers monitoring systems for as many as six zones.

(www.fireboy-xintex.com)



COBRA

### C-Pod System

The C-Pod security and monitoring system from Cobra alerts you to the presence of an intruder or other onboard disturbances via your choice of e-mail or text message. Combining motion and magnetic sensors with a global reach, you'll never have to wonder what's happening on your boat.

(cobra.com)



SEA-FIRE

## **FireStop**

Though fire may seem to be the biggest threat onboard your vessel due to the extensive damage it can cause, there are other threats you need to consider. Sea-Fire's FireStop system addresses them by offering smokeand fire-alarm systems that can be expanded to also detect heat and carbon monoxide. The potentially life-saving devices can monitor as many as four zones, each of which is marked on the system's control panel and activates individually.

(www.sea-fire.com)

Left photo courtesy of Fireboy; Top-right photo courtesy of Cobra; Right photo courtesy of Sea-Fire



## ELIMINATE BOAT ROLL

I magine total relaxation and comfort while in port or offshore—providing you and your guests with an onboard experience unlike any other. That is why we engineered the most effective anti-rolling device ever made—the Seakeeper® Gyro. Requiring only 3 kW of power, the Seakeeper Gyro operates quietly and efficiently to eliminate boat roll. Entertain in comfort in rough seas and enjoy more time on the water as seasickness becomes a thing of the past. Experience the Seakeeper® Gyro and change your boating experience forever.

- ELIMINATES 60-80% OF UNCOMFORTABLE BOAT ROLL
- No DRAG-PRODUCING EXTERNAL FINS
- SIMPLE INSTALLATION



...the most important piece of equipment for boats since the invention of the autopilot...the most innovative piece of equipment I've come across in my 50 years in the marine industry.

-JIM MCLAREN, GENERAL MANAGER ORANGE COAST YACHTS WWW.OVATIONYACHTS.COM



WWW.SEAKEEPER.COM

## **GEAR+ELECTRONICS**

# Can We Stop Evolution?

As our relationship with electronics continues to change, we need to know what we want now more than ever.

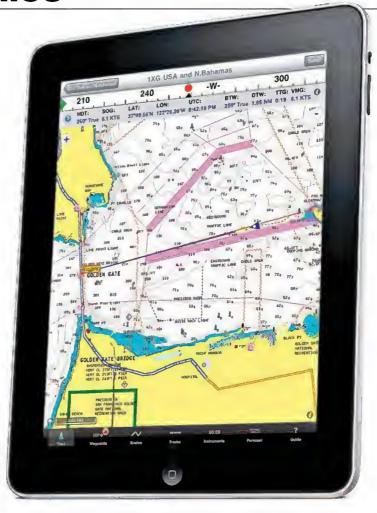


ifteen years ago, a new electronic product would usually stay on sale for five or six years. Now, many disappear within two or three years of their launch. It

makes me wonder how long the flood of new products can last and where the current is taking us.

On a longish drive from Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers, to the resort where the National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) held its annual convention, I got chatting with the taxi driver. As soon as I mentioned the word "electronics" he launched into a story about someone who thought he had lost his phone in his cab. "His whole life was in that phone," the driver recounted. "It wasn't just his phone numbers and photos. Without it, he couldn't open his garage door, unlock his car, or turn his TV on!"

That got me thinking about how people are giving over huge amounts of responsibility to electronic devices. Why do we bother with steering wheels and engine controls? Why don't we just drive our boats straight from our smartphones? Of course you'd want a backup—a second iPhone, perhaps—but it could certainly be done. And we're not talking about some point in the distant future either. So far as I know, you can't log onto iTunes and download



BoatCaptain for \$4.99, but I'll bet someone is working on it right now—a smartphone app that could control and monitor an entire boat and manage everything from planning a passage to pumping out the black waste tank at the end of it. The essential technology is already in place.

We've been using autopilots to steer our boats for years. Now that chartplotters have morphed into multifunction displays (MFDs), separate autopilot control heads may some day become almost unnecessary. Many of those MFDs can control other boat systems too—everything from stereo systems to bilge pumps and sewage systems.

Why do we bother with steering wheels and engine controls?

We have radios with Bluetooth handsets that allow us to wander round the boat without being tethered to the helm by a length of curly cable, satellite systems that will bring us e-mail and Internet across half an ocean for less than it costs to phone home from the Bahamas, and gizmos that will connect our boat to a Wi-Fi hot spot in a Starbucks five miles away. Systems can also turn our entire boat into a local Wi-Fi network with everything on our control panel duplicated on our iPad, and an entire library of instruction manuals stored on the hard drive that carries our stash of movies

Slightly offset from all this mainstream electronic wizardry are engine controls. We see plenty of MFDs offering an array

Above: An iPad can help stream important data to your boat. But can it also become an distraction?



of engine-monitoring instruments as one of their "pages" of information, but actually controlling the engines seems to be something different until you realize that NMEA 2000—the current network starrdard for marine instruments—grew out of the "CANbus" system that was originally developed by the automotive industry. So the cables that carry engine-control com-

mands from the levers to the engines are the same as those that carry enginemonitoring information back to the MFD, and the commands that are sent by the levers to the engine control units are sent in exactly the same kind of code as those that your MFD uses to dim the pariel lighting or switch the baitwell pump on. Imagine a pair of slide switches on a smartphone touchscreen that you could manipulate to engage the engines and push the throttles forward. Just be sure to lock the screen before slipping the phone into your pocket!

Almost every step along the way-from the first transistorized fishfinders that were the first electronics to find their way into recreational craft through instrument systems, RDF

and Loran and GPS to the highly integrated, enormously capable chartplotting, radar, and communications systems we have today, has been an improvement. Some steps have been better than others: I don't quite understand why a "3-D" chart, for instance, is any better than one that contains exactly the same information in 2-D; to me, it looks just like a paper chart that has been crumpled up, flattened out again, and is now being looked at from some strange angle.

But maybe that's just me. In today's world, having the option of different views is the goal. And on the positive side, I like

being able to see what's going on in the engine room by looking at an MFD in the wheelhouse; I like the fact that a modem chartplotter will warn me if I'm about to go somewhere stupid, and I really love that it will tell me if an approaching ship is likely to pass a bit too close for comfort.

But I can't help wondering whether all those steps might ultimately take us someboating applications. "They are for built for entertainment, for e-mail, Web browsing, and apps," he says. "We still need dedicated marine devices that can withstand temperature, sunlight, and voltage fluctuations, and that can be seen at any angle." But that, he adds, is only now: "You never know what the future may bring!"

Eric Kunz, senior product manager at Furuno, has similar reservations. "An iPhone as a primary

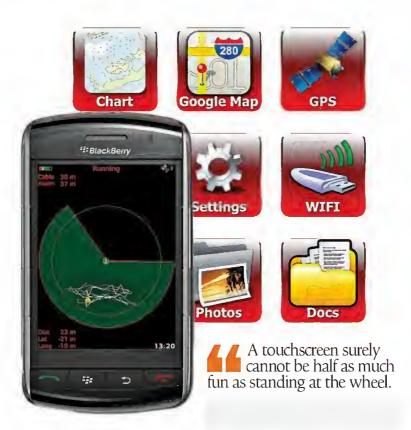
> means of controlling a boat?" he says. "No, that will never fly. What happens if you drop your phone? But as a secondary method, yes. That's the way we're going."

But perhaps the most outspoken view is from Nobeltec's general mariager Bill Washburn, who questions whether we should ever stop. "The evolutions of technology are always better," he says. "Maybe somebody would have had the same reaction to the evolution of steam engines onboard ships taking away the use of sails, or using hydraulics or engines to take away direct control of the rudder. Today, in our context, the evolution of technology into the future looks very scary—giving over control of primary navigation. But spaceships that go up to the moon are all digital control, fly by wire,

and there are aircraft that carnot possibly fly without full electronic control."

As for me, I think we will be able to control our boats from our phones before very long. We might even do so, every once in a while, to impress our friends. But even for the geekiest electronics enthusiast, dragging your finger across a touchscreen surely cannot be half as much fun as standing at the wheel and feeling the boat come alive as you nudge the throttles forward. PMY

Above: Boatranet from Digital Yacht and Myanchorwatch from IT Tack can share info with mobile devices.



where that we don't really want to go. Do we really want boats without fixed steering wheels, engine controls, and instruments? And if not, who is going to say, "stop," and when should they say it?

A straw poll of some of the major players at the NMEA convention suggests that although no one is likely to be jamming on the brakes, there is a general feeling that we will probably not be seeing boats without helm stations any time soon.

Jim Hands, marketing director at Raymarine, doesn't think we can ignore mobile computing, but also points out that mobile computing devices aren't built for

## **GEAR+ELECTRONICS**

#### Tridium Extreme

#### THIS SATPHONE IS SUITED TO OFFSHORE DUTY.

Slightly shorter, slightly wider, and at 8.7 ounces nearly an ounce lighter than the popular Iridium 9555, the latest Iridium satellite telephone—the Iridium Extreme—looks like a ruggedized redesign of the older model. But there's more to it than a rubber-clad casing and a correspondingly higher price tag (retail prices are around \$1,450 compared with around \$1,200 for the 9555).

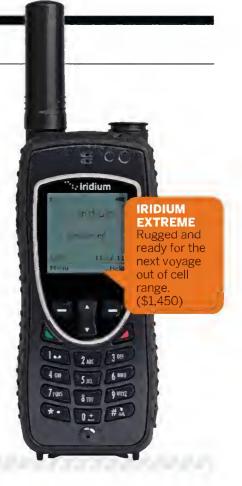
The sturdy case enhances the look and feel of the phone and helps to protect it against shock and impact. Meanwhile the underlying casing boasts an ingress protection rating of IP65—the highest in the satphone industry-indicating readiness to

withstand incursion from dust and jets of water from any direction, so it's sure to work in offshore conditions when your call would be most pressing.

Another major upgrade from the 9555 is that the new phone includes a built-in GPS, which opens the door to all manner of safety and security-related functions such as geofencing and tracking. The phone also offers a very handy SOS function, which sends a call for help, complete with the phone's current position, to any nominated contact—a call you hope vou never have to make.

#### **■ IRIDIUM**

(703) 287-7400. WWW.IRIDIUM.COM.



### FLIR & Raymarine Handheld Thermal Imagers

#### SEE IN THE DARK FOR LESS.

When it bought Raymarine, thermalimaging specialist FLIR had just introduced a range of handheld thermal imagers called the First Mate with launch prices starting at \$3,000. To no one's great surprise, Raymarine soon introduced a range of thermalimaging cameras too.

Now, less than 18 months later, FLIR has followed up with a new First Mate called the First Mate MS—a handheld imager that is shorter, slimmer, and just a little over half the weight of the earlier model yet matches it in performance.

There are two versions of the new camera; the \$1,999 (MSRP) MS224 produces a slightly grainy but acceptable 240x180-pixel image and can be expected to "see" a small boat such as an inflatable at a range

of about half a mile in pitch darkness. For an extra \$1.000, the MS324 adds a 2x digital zoom function, complemented by a 320x240-pixel image giving a corresponding increase in detection ranges—about 50 percent better.

And if you don't like the yellow color scheme from FLIR, the same imagers are available in two-tone gray as the TH series from Raymarine.

FLIR (877) 773-3547. WWW.FLIR.COM.

#### **■ RAYMARINE**

(603) 881-5200. WWW.RAYMARINE.COM.



op photo courtesy of Iridium: Bottom photo courtesy of FLIR



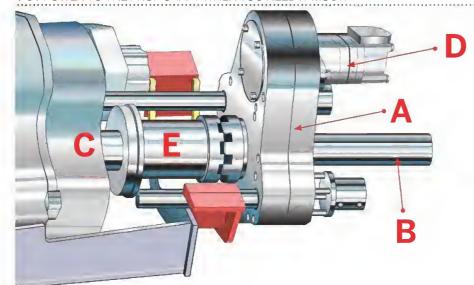


## YARD

WESMAR APU
TIP OF THE MONTH
PROFESSOR DIESEL

PUT POWER TO THE PROP SHAFT WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST.

**TEXT BY ERIC COLBY** 



#### **LEGEND**

- A APU
- **B** Prop shaft
- C Transmission
- D Motor
- E Shaft coupler

The WESMAR APU can give single-diesel-powered boats the confidence to voyage farther.

## **Backup Plan**

inally retired, you're on a weeklong cruise aboard your trawler, just you and your wife. Suddenly your only engine quits, and you can't restart it. Your peaceful cruise is over, and your wife is asking, "Are we stuck in the middle of nowhere?"

Fortunately you thought ahead—seemingly to this very moment—when you bought the boat: You ordered a backup plan, WESMAR's Auxiliary

Propulsion Unit (APU), and right now, it's worth every cent of the \$12,000 upcharge. You just grin, flip a switch, turn a key, push a button

at the helm, and you're back underway. You're a hero.

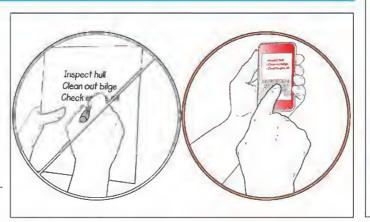
A get-home system is nothing new, but one that is applicable to such a wide range of vessels is. The APU was invented by Ronald Voegeli, of Oak Harbor, Washington. "We licensed [it] and made it producible and usable," says Bruce Blakey, president of WESMAR.

The APU is a hydraulic propulsion system that mounts on the aft end of a marine transmission via brackets. Within its cast-aluminum housing is a carbon-fiber belt, similar to those used on motorcycles, that is driven by two gears. An Eaton hydraulic motor driven either directly off the genset or a genset-powered A.C. electric motor,

#### **GARMIN'S** TIP OF THE MONTH

DARREN KLINK, NORFOLK, VA

Carry frequently used maintenance part numbers, to-do lists, and shopping lists with you on your smartphone. Use any number of available free apps (try TurboList for the Droid and Easy Note for the iPhone) that will allow you to keep everything in either simple or categorized form. Or go a step further and use your smartphone calendar to remind you to complete maintenance tasks or projects you might otherwise forget.



#### **Contest Guidelines**

For your chance to win a **Garmin VHF**100 fixed-mount radio, send your best
maintenance tip to **Capt. Bill Pike** at
bill.pike@pmymag.com. One winner
will be drawn from all entries each
month. No purchase necessary.

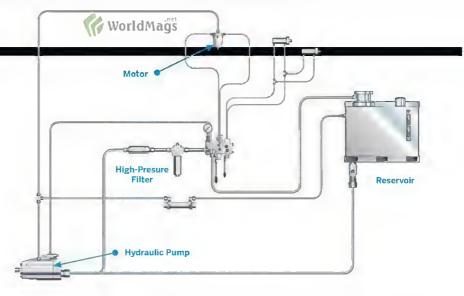


Garmin VHF 100

Illustrations by Steve Karp

attaches to the upper gear. The prop shaft passes through the larger lower gear. When the APU is engaged, two small cylinders on the housing push it forward and rotate the unit slightly to align two drive rings, one on the front of the APU and the other on a five-inch shaft coupler on the back of the transmission, that lock onto the prop shaft. The hydraulic motor turns the gears, which rotate the belt to spin the propeller. When the APU is not in use, limit switches on the hydraulic cylinders hold it in place abaft the transmission to ensure that it doesn't accidentally engage.

In the event of an engine failure, the helmsman simply turns off its electrical power source and powers up the generator for either hydraulic or A.C. power. (Obviously if there's a central hydraulic system that's driven off the engine, he'd better have one of these two options.) A helm panel includes a key that when turned provides power to the APU, a start button, and a joystick. Among the improvements WESMAR made over the original unit are the helm start and allowing the unit to shift into reverse for easier docking. The APU works on either 12- or 24-volt D.C. systems



To simplify installation, WESMAR offers diagrams, such as this schematic of a hydraulic system that can provide power to the APU.

and needs a dedicated circuit breaker.

WESMAR has been installing the APU mainly in single-engine trawlers; I saw it on the Selene 45 when Capt. Bill Pike tested that boat. WESMAR says it has also received inquiries from whale-watching boats because of the APU's quiet operation.

WESMAR offers the APU in two sizes. The 200 series has a maximum rating of 25 hp and can take up to a 2.38-inch-diameter prop shaft. Pricing starts at \$10,695. The 300 series maxes out at 100 hp, takes a prop shaft of up to 3.38-

inch diameter, and lists for \$12,400. Prices do not include installation. Expensive? Compared to the cost of a second engine and the required running gear—not to mention the additional mechanical complexity and hydrodynamic drag—it's a good deal. And, as they say in those MasterCard commercials, being a hero in an emergency is priceless. PMY

#### **■ WESMAR**

(425) 481-2296 WWW.WESMAR.COM.

#### A&Q

#### **PROFESSOR DIESEL**

Q: I have a 39-foot Bertram with twin Volvo Penta TAMD74P-A diesel inboards. The starboard engine, if left idling for a couple of minutes—say, while I'm fishing over a wreck—will not rev up afterwards. Instead, it takes 30 to 40 seconds to respond. The fuel filters are new, and the fuel onboard is clean. Do you have any ideas?

## John StewardDestin, Florida

PD: With the starboard engine switched off and you in the engine room, have a friend move the throttle lever at the helm to full throttle. The point here is to make sure the throttle lever at the engine touches the high-speed adjust-

ing stop on the fuel-injection pump.
Now repeat the process on the port engine, making sure both enginemounted levers move an equal distance with equal effort. If either does not, check for rusty, kinked,

or worn cables.

Next compare the movement of the stop levers on both engines. Sometimes a difference of little more than an eighth of an inch will make an engine lazy. If the starboard lever gets less than full travel, check its injection pump.

And finally, try the following:
Start both engines, leave them in
neutral, and check the throttle and
stop levers as described above. Also,
check for adequate fuel pressure (specifications are in your service manual)
between the starboard engine's lift

pump and its secondary filter and fuelinjection pump. Also check turbo boost and turbo reaction time. Low pressure or slow spool-up may mean a wornout turbo or a plugged mixing elbow or exhaust system. I've seen mufflers plugged with muskrats, eels, fish, dirt, and other undesirables.

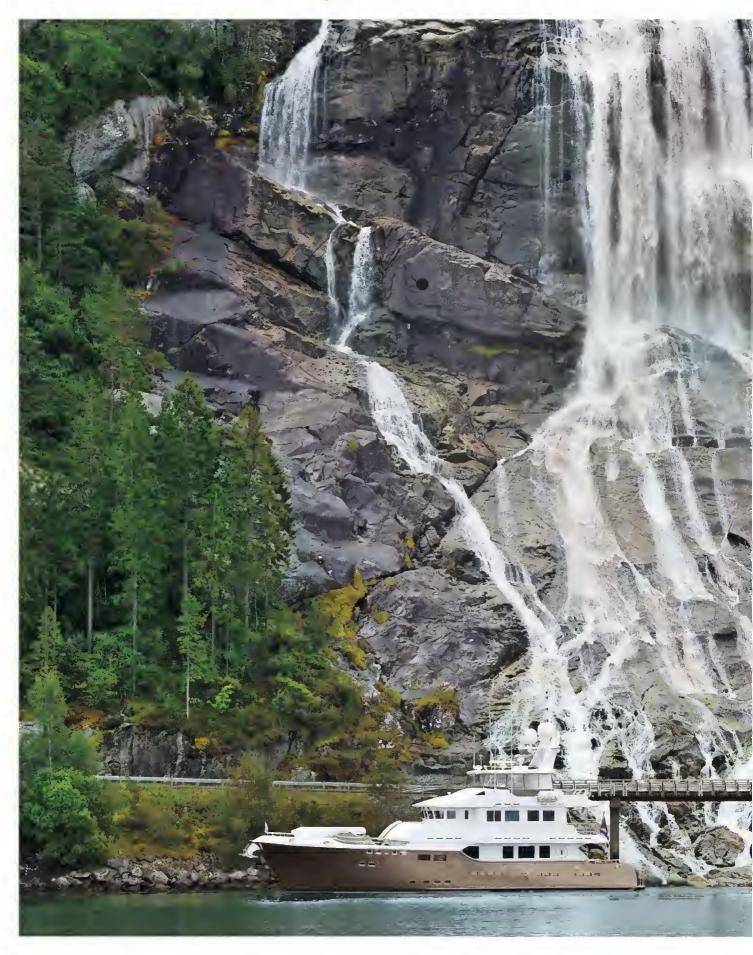
I believe your engines also have intercoolers; they should be removed and cleaned occasionally as they can become clogged with marine growth, scale, and other obstructions. If all these engine-related aspects check out, it is possible that prop shaft alignment or other drive-train issues are your problem, especially if that sluggish starboard engine throttles up quickly in neutral.

Professor Diesel Is Larry Berlin, director of Mack Boring's Training Services division.

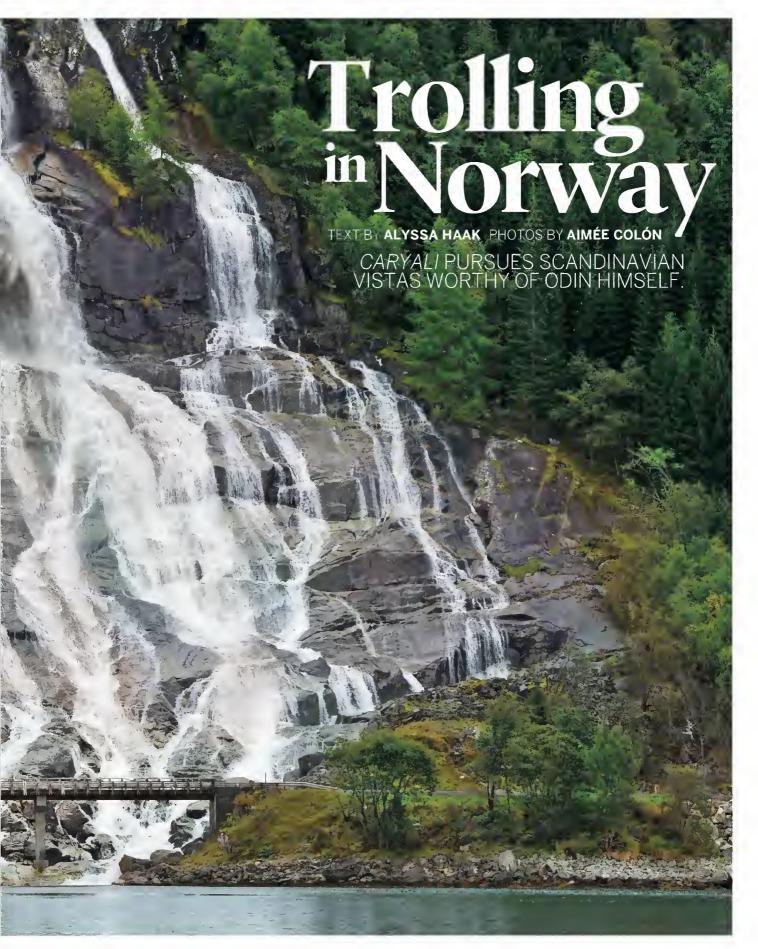
QUESTIONS/FEEDBACK

Please submit all your questions to PMY's senior editor Capt. Bill Pike via email at bill.pike@pmymag.com













o begin preparing for a trip to Norway, I checked the weather (cool and rainy) and the charts (much farther north than I'd thought). But the most interesting part of my pretrip research was discovering that all the Scandinavian pop-culture references I could think of were Swedish. Ikea? Swedish. Stieg Larsson? Swedish. Even the chef on the Muppets was Swedish. All I was left with was trolls and Vikings.

Fortunately I'd be cruising Norway's fjords aboard the first Nordhavn 86, *CaryAli* so I'd be able to see the country from a more intimate perspective. Combining Nordhavn's renowned seaworthiness with the trideck luxury of a mini megayacht, *CaryAli* was sure to protect us from the cold and those trolls.

The city stretched out before us in what we'd soon identify as the colors of Norway: burnt ochre, brick red, and white.

I knew Vikings had stopped pillaging centuries ago, but now was our turn to sail their shores and explore their lands—though I only expected to return with post-cards and gift-shop trinkets.

Our party landed in Norway on a Wednesday. In Norse mythology, Wednesday was named for the father of the gods, Odin. (Etymology indicates that Odin could also be spelled *Woden* hence Woden's day or Wednesday.) As the god of the sky, war, magic, and wisdom, his patronage promised to make our cruise through the fjords interesting.

But we first had to get onboard. Captain Adam Steel led the way with a quick leap from a commercial dock edged with a short metal I-beam, a structure we'd encounter on other Norwegian docks. But on my first boarding, it was daunting as the beam was damp and slippery from the misty air. Indeed, this particular Wednesday in early September was just one of the area's estimated 300 rainy days each year. With the midnight sun no longer shining, the weather had turned fickle—





overcast and damp one minute, gloriously warm and sunny the next.

So photographer and *PMY* art director Aimée Colón, my friend Amy Thomson, and I passed first our bags and then ourselves over what seemed to us to be a crevasse of death, fortunately without incident. After meeting the crew and quickly settling into our cabins, we set out to explore Bergen, Norway's second-largest city, with stewardess Amber Steel and mate Ryan Keany.

It's a beautiful old city nestled between two mountains, one featuring a tram that climbs at a 26-degree angle to the top, which would be our first tourist experience. Waiting at the bottom in the small cave that serves as the tram station, I couldn't even see sunlight filtering down through the clouds. But once we were on top, the city stretched out before us in what we'd soon identify as the colors of Norway: burnt ochre, brick red, and white. Unfortunately our subsequent explorations of the quayside fish market and the UNESCO historical site of Bryggen, with its crooked, timber-supported





Clockwise, Top left:
The bright colors of
Bergen's Bryggen
district would be repeated throughout our trip.
CaryAli departs into
Norway's out islands.
Capt. Adam Steel navigates from the helm.
Bergen, Norway's
second-largest city,
bustles with activity.





Clockwise, Top left:
Kayaking back to
CaryAli. Chef Dan
Hewison details
the day's lunch.
Amy Thomson gets
familiar with her
catch of the day.



buildings, were cut short by cold, drizzly rain. But as our silver lining, we were driven back to the yacht for our first dinner of local scallops (caught that morning) with a blueberry salad.

Odin had smiled upon us our first day, dearing the skies, and we took full advantage of the warm late-summer sun during our five-hour cruise south through the out islands—skaergard in Norwegian. The number

of homes along the coast began to decrease until they eventually became a rare sight.

Capt. Adam found a small cove near Harpeskallen that was the perfect place to drop a couple of fishing lines. As soon as the hooks hit the water, Ryan was reeling in a mackerel. No matter who held the rod, the results were the same: a fish at its end. But when I reeled in my catch it turned out to be what I referred to as the "red poison fish of death," and the captain lunged for gloves and pliers to pry the fish off the hook.

Poison death fish have a way of ruining a perfectly enjoyable afternoon fishing session, so *CaryAli* soon resumed her cruise through the 600-foot-wide pass of Luksundet, which was topped with a snowy glacier that blended seamlessly with the low-hanging clouds. With its 180-degree views, the helm table was the ideal place to sit and watch the waterway narrow and the cliffs rise around us.

Once we were on the other side of the pass, we anchored between the out islands of Nordøya and Terøya and the mainland. In the quiet of the afternoon,



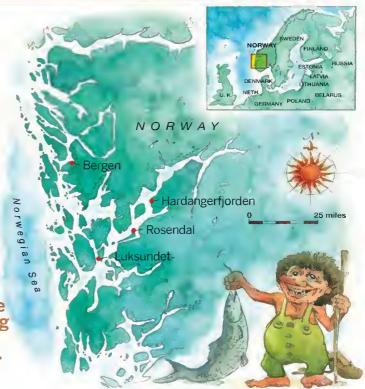


we had two options to explore: a kayak or the 19-foot Zodiac RIB.

Amy, Aimée, Ryan, and I tried our hands first at the kayaks, in which we circled the one-house island of Terøya. But though Nordøya and the shore seemed close, we deemed it more efficient to investigate them by tender. As Ryan piloted the tender close to the cluster of buildings, we could tell they were empty. (Chef Dan Hewison collected wild blackberries and snail shells from the rocks, excitedly referring to them as "delicacies." I hoped they wouldn't appear on my dinner plate that evening.) The same was true of the other island: Nordøya seemed to be only inhabited by goats.

Back aboard Amy and I had stretched out on the sundeck to take in the warm late afternoon sun when Amber suggested we test the hot tub. The water heated quickly,

A small cove near Harpeskallen was the perfect place to drop a couple of fishing lines. No matter who held the rod, the results were the same: a fish at its end.







and as the bubbles started to gurgle, we couldn't feel even a hint of chill in the air.

After the day's activity, Aimée, Amy, and I sat down for dinner at *CaryAli*'s indoor dining table and discovered that the table setting reflected our day's adventure: Pinecones that Amber had collected surrounded vases of thistles and greens similar to what we'd seen during our



walk. Chef Dan had prepared a meal that combined his international experience and regional flavors. It began with small crawfish tails with a side of cauliflower puree topped with a wasabi dressing for a touch of heat—a light start that left plenty of room for the main course of pork tenderloin served over a risotto with a jus of juniper.

The next morning the weather turned into what I'd come to expect as the clouds and mist began to gather. While underway to Hardangerfjorden, one of the smaller fjords, we dined on a breakfast smorgasbord of pastries and coffee. Outside, water from the glaciers trickled down the steep rock faces that surrounded the fjord. Here, we encountered the first town to show signs of life since Bergen: Sundal. But besides a small campground with a few RVs, most of the activity was at the nearby salmon farm where the fish were penned in by nets and skipped across the water on their tails.

We spent our last night aboard docked at Rosendal,

Outside, water from the glaciers trickled down the steep rock faces that surrounded the fjord.



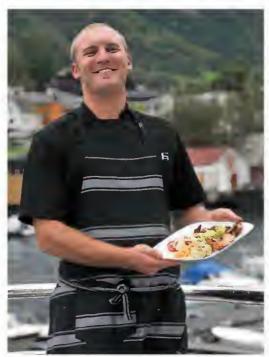


which we reached just in time to explore the tiny galleries of local artists before they closed. It was dinnertime, and for a change, Chef Dan abandoned his galley for the sundeck grill and the formal dining table for the outdoor one. Despite wind and rain, we were warmed by the heat of the grill and protected from the elements by isinglass as we ate cheeseburgers, lemon chicken, potato salad, and homemade coleslaw.

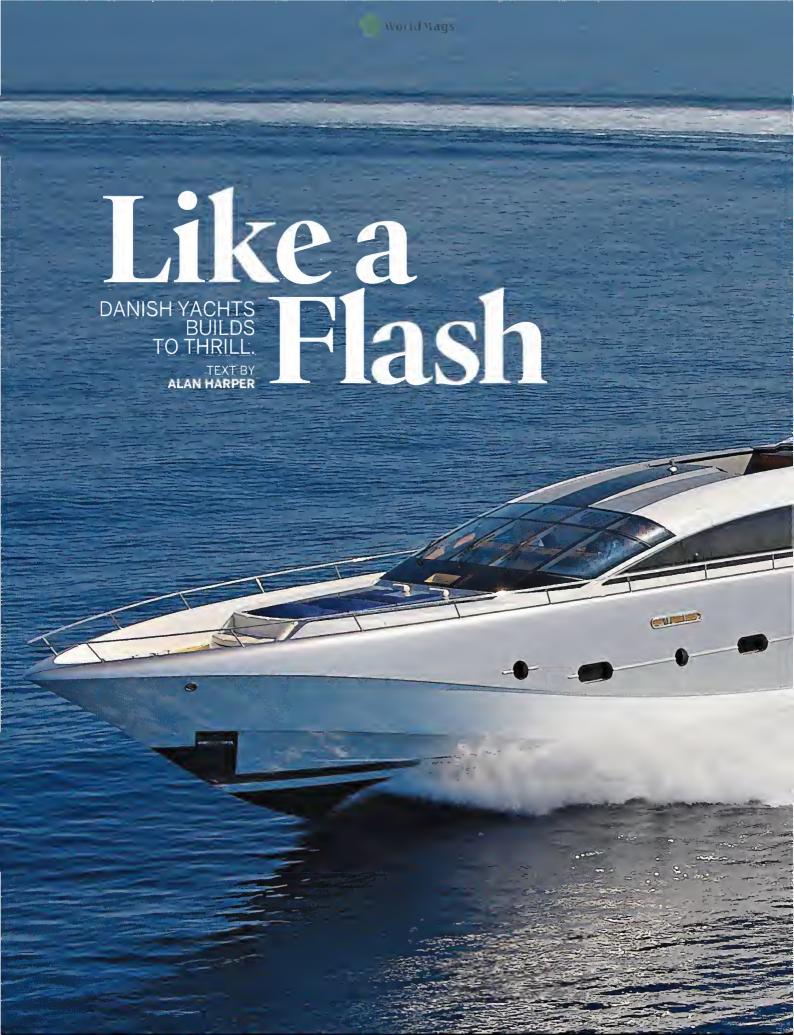
It was a straight shot back at 8 knots to Bergen the next morning. The sunny weather of our first day was just a memory, as the cold intermittent mist had become steady. But Aimée, Amy, and I each found a comfortable chair or sofa in the main saloon, each wrapped up in our own blanket, and settled in to watch the islands go by. And as we alternated between reading and looking, the ride was silent except for the soft snap of the rain against the windows, creating the perfect ending to a cruise spent in the quiet Norwegian fjords aboard *CaryAli*. PMY

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Clockwise, Top left: Cruising into Hardangerfjorden. Many of the houses we encountered appeared to be empty. Hewison displays another delicious creation. An onshore hike is a great way to work up an appetite.









### **Specifications**

Construction: Composite

Classification: DNV +1A1 HSLC Yacht R3/MCA

Fuel capacity: 5,283 gal. Water capacity: 1,585 gal.

**Engines:** 2/2,639-hp MTU 16V 2000 M94s **Gensets:** 2/Kohler, 50kW and 40kW

Watermakers: Hydro Electrique Marine

Windlass: Maxwell
Navigation: Furuno, B&G
Air conditioning: Servex
Exterior design: Espen Øino
Interior design: Art-Line
Naval architecture: Danish Yachts

here are various types of efficiency that people talk about when considering fast motoryachts. There's the efficiency of the hull form, which must be as slippery and easily driven as possible—though without compromising seakeeping too much. There is the efficiency of the jet propulsion, which like surface drives, works best at high speed and can return surprising fuel consumption and range figures, even with the hammer down. And then, notwithstanding the previous item on the list, there is the efficiency with which the vessel consumes everything from adrenaline to diesel, not forgetting, along the way, vast quantities of cash.

In every one of these senses, Danish Yachts' amazing new Aerocruiser 38 II *Shooting Star* is one of the most efficient high-speed craft ever devised. Very few shipyards have even attempted to build anything like her, and none has pulled off the feat with such aplomb. This is a 127-ton gentleman's express with an asking price somewhere north of \$25 million that's capable of almost 48 knots (55 mph). With more than 9,000 hp and a 17-ton fuel load, she can keep up that velocity for more than 500 miles—and although throttling back to half-speed cuts fuel consumption by half, it adds only 15 percent to her range thanks to the high-speed efficiency of the waterjets. The hull is a constant-deadrise 17-degree deep-V.

This might seem like uncharted territory, but Danish Yachts has been here before: *Shooting Star* might well turn out to be the extraordinary one-off she looks like, but in giving the project a model name, the shipyard is not only looking forward (hopefully) to future orders but also back to the yacht's 115-foot predecessor, the 53-knot *Moon Goddess*, which launched in 2006.

Before that, the yard, founded in 1988 and perhaps best known for the beautiful replica of Harold Vanderbilt's 135-foot J-Class sailboat *Ranger*,



Above: Starship Enterprise—the extraordinary pod-like wheelhouse. Note the gap in the bulkhead, and the glass panel overhead.





which it built in 2004, cut its teeth on composite patrol boats, minesweepers, and training vessels for the Danish navy. Among its latest designs is a new 124-foot (38-meter) *Guardian* fast-patrol-boat design, which shares *Shooting Star*'s hull shape and machinery package but adds a ramp-launched RIB in the stern, accommodations for a crew of 20, and a 700-mile range at 52 mph.

Not being a big name in the luxury yacht market, Danish Yachts hired a heavyweight designer to lend the project some marketing clout. The Monaco-based Norwegian superyacht specialist Espen Øino styled the exterior, working from Danish Yachts' own hull

design. He describes the new yacht as an evolution of *Moon Goddess*, which he also styled, but with higher bulwarks to better disguise the height of the superstructure.

For the interior, the Danes went to Holland. Art-Line of Arnhem created an innovative accommodation layout both above and below decks finished in light fabrics from Dedar and Sahco Hesslein, white lacquer and leather, and pale, curvaceous panelling in maple and teak—a scheme inspired, they say, by the sea, sand, and sunshine of the Danish shoreline. This is a yacht that will be easy to live with, whether you're enjoying the scenery at anchor in some secluded cove

Top: The deck saloon under its huge sliding sunroof. Above: The bow master has an en suite head, left, and glass deckhead panels.





or, as Danish Yachts' marketing people are fond of saying, making the 60-minute passage between Monaco and Saint-Tropez. (That's 45 NM.)

Huge areas of glass in the superstructure are augmented by the biggest sliding sunroof you're ever likely to see. The glass continues forward of the windscreen in four lateral panels in the coachroof that illuminate the owner's cabin. But the interior design's tour de force is undoubtedly the central structural ellipse clad in slatted teak that starts at the front of the wheelhouse and swoops right round behind it, as if the ceiling of the lower deck corridor has been peeled back to let in the daylight.

A big aft sunbed sits over the tender garage, while Shooting Star's

long cockpit is shaded by an equally long and elegant sun awning that emerges from the superstructure overhang on two tubular-steel supports. Sliding doors in the glass bulkhead lead into the saloon, with a bar on the starboard side opposite the dining table and an informal, raised, L-shape seating area to port with a huge Neuer Wiener Werkstätte sofa. It's directly beneath the sunroof and on the perfect level to enjoy those giant windows or, should the view ever pall, to view the huge TV concealed in the cabinetry.

The wheelhouse is exceptionally businesslike, designed as it was by the shipyard with input from maritime nav and com specialist Radio Zeeland. The helmsman's and navigator's seats face an array of five monitors, shielded from reflections by a louvered screen with blinds

Above: The view from the sunpad atop the tender garage, right through the cockpit and saloon to the wheelhouse and the distant bow.

overhead to shade the crew. Four seats, with footrests, are provided along the aft bulkhead for backseat drivers who will enjoy the space-age quality of that extraordinary elliptical curve to the floor and ceiling.

The lower-deck companionway leads down behind the wheelhouse on the starboard side, cutting forward to the guest cabins and aft to the crew area. The owner's suite is in the bow, with ample floor space on either side and a spectacular bathroom concealed behind the forward bulkhead. Two symmetrical twin-berth cabins to each side of the corridor are augmented by a roomy double VIP suite to port. Opposite and occupying an area that could easily become a fifth cabin lies another of *Shooting Star's* many surprises: a cozy, private TV lounge almost filled by a huge L-shape sofa, with its own head compartment.

Signature pieces of furniture in the accommodation areas add quirkiness and character: an amusing Stefan Heiliger "question mark" chair in the master stateroom and an intricate, cantilevered coffee table in the saloon that looks like something Saarinen might have doodled but was in fact custom-made to an Art-Line design. Blue LED lighting and glittering mother-of-pearl mosaic tiles in the bathrooms lend an air of luxury and intrigue.

Follow the corridor aft and you find yourself in a generously proportioned crew area dominated by the large, square galley with its combined island counter and dining table. There is a laundry room aft, and two twin-bunk cabins with a shared head lead off to starboard. These look comfortable enough but the biggest smile belongs to the captain who has a positively palatial (for a 125-footer) suite complete with double berth, desk, shower, and head that almost spans the yacht's full beam.

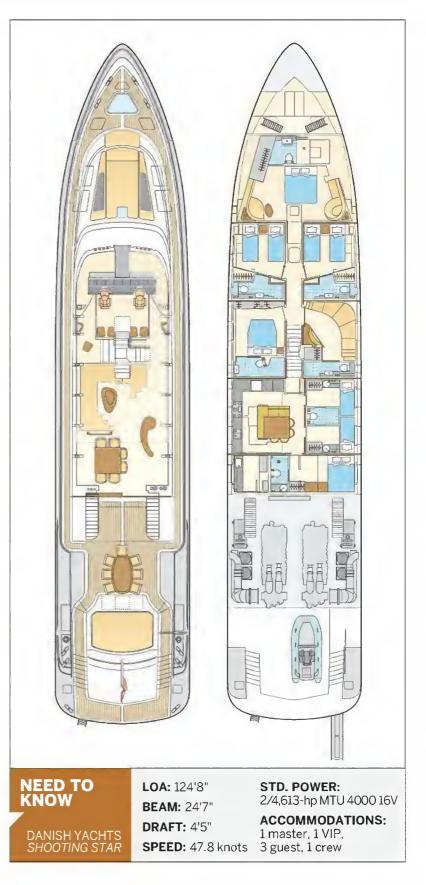
It is a tribute to Danish Yachts' craftsmanship that *Shooting Star*'s beautiful finish looks and feels so solid. From the immaculate engine room and flawless technical areas concealed beneath the floors to the quality joinery and fine, millimeter-perfect fairing of the exterior, you don't really get a sense that weight was an issue. And yet, displacing 127 tons (empty), the yacht is constructed of a high-tech composite of epoxy resin and carbon fiber vacuum-laminated around a foam core.

Building to her design weight was crucial, of course, if she was to hit her design speed, and in fact, as the shipyard's design manager confided, she turned out within four percent of her target displacement.

Now that's what I'd call efficient. PMY

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Above: A 5:1 length-beam ratio combines with an oversized engine room and aft stowage areas to betray the yacht's military roots.





### Cruise Control

TEXT BY JASON Y. WOOD

FIND A CHARTER AGENT YOU TRUST AND TELL THEM YOUR VACATION DREAMS—THEY'LL DO THE REST.



family and friends have been on the water, on your own boat. Why not sample some of the other waters around the world—the warm, clear Caribbean and the sophisticated Mediterranean leap to mind—and book a charter for your next group vacation? Even if you've never considered one before, now is a good time to look into it. Here's why: Charter yacht owners are eager to negotiate deals with responsible clients to get their boats booked. While those looking for deep discounts often will be rejected, potential clients who ask for a reasonable rate adjustment—think on the order of an extra day for free—may be delightfully surprised.

And the delights need not stop there. Surprising your children with carefully laid vacation plans aboard a yacht should be one of those moments to record on video for later viewing at the Parent of the Year Awards. And you haven't even set foot on the boat yet, where memories will be made and proclamations of The Best Vacation Ever will be heard. The trick is to consider the needs of everyone coming along, and then communicate them to a broker you trust.

Charter brokers are the key to the whole program. Find a good one and he or she won't steer you wrong. Most people find a charter broker by getting advice from people they trust—if you know someone who has chartered a yacht, get their take on their experience and ask for their suggestions. You'll know you have the right broker when he or she starts asking questions like these. "I have to find out *where* they want to go, *when* they want to go, what is their budget, how many passengers they have, if are there any small children," says Ann Landry,

to courtesy of Northrop & Johnson

A charter can be nonstop fun—if that's what you want it to be.





a charter broker with Northrop and Johnson. "What are they looking for? The glitz and glitter tour in the Mediterranean or are they looking for a dynamic watersports charter in the Bahamas?"

Charter brokers have a wealth of knowledge, and it's their business to match you with the right experience. Use them to your advantage. "As charter brokers we spend a lot of time researching the different yachts," says Debra Blackburn, a charter broker with Fraser Yachts. "We visit the yachts, we travel with them, we spend time with the crew, we inspect

the yachts on a regular basis, both in the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, and then other areas throughout the world where yachts may be going. When a client comes to us, we have firsthand current knowledge of what will be the best yacht for them."

Be straight with a charter broker in terms of your expectations. If you plan on having a certain number of people along for the ride, that number ceases to be a variable and becomes a criterion for the charter—so if it could change, you need to tell the broker. "Don't say you're coming with eight people and show up with 12 when your boat only sleeps eight people," warns Barbara Stork, a charter broker with the International Yacht Collection. "Unless it's a true commercially registered boat—and there aren't many that do luxury yacht charters—you can only take the maximum that you can sleep. But you can't charter a boat and just show up with extra people,

because it's not legal and the crew can't do it."

If you're planning your charter around school vacations or other firm dates, you need to explain that too. But if your schedule is flexible, share that information—it may open up boats that would be eliminated by a fixed timetable. Just as when you're cruising on your own boat, flexibility is a huge benefit if problems should arise, such as inclement weather.

Another area where you should be upfront is your budget. Good brokers will explain what the real costs will be. "Typically on a motoryacht you will have a charter rate and your operating expenses," says Sue Flammia, an independent charter broker with A Yachting Holiday. "You pay those expenses in addition to the charter rate. Your food, beverage, fuel, dockage, any cruising taxes, and any other operating costs are additional expense

to a charter." Brokers generally calculate an advanced provisioning allowance, called an APA, at 30 percent of the charter rate. It's an estimate of expenses, but charters sometimes cost more, for which you will be billed. For example, fast boats use a lot more fuel. Or, if you

want to stay at the dock more than be at anchor, you're going to have more

Ann Landry

Debra Blackburn





dockage costs. And if you have really expensive taste and enjoy fine wines, champagne, and caviar, food and beverages will be more expensive.

And then there's the tip for the crew. "While the gratuity is at the charterers' discretion, we quote a range of 10 to 20 percent," Flammia says. "Crew now have gotten used to 15 to 20 percent. They feel if they get anything less than that, they haven't done their job right. Crew work incredibly hard, keeping the boat maintained and clean and putting the toys in the water for the guests, and

they try to make sure guests are having a wonderful time, as well as being safe." Those yacht crews are the last, best reason to communicate openly and honestly with your charter broker. If your broker gets to know you and what is important to you, he or she can match your personality to the crew's—a benefit whose value will prove immeasurable.

"The crew come into play a lot," Stork says, "because once you find a boat for the guests, it's the crew that has them onboard. They come up with suggestions because they know the area they cruise." The crew will know the best ways to entertain the guests, and the best alternatives when conditions don't cooperate.

Barbara Stork

Begin thinking now about your next yacht

charter, and book early for the widest selection of boats with open calendars. After all, it's never too soon to start planning The Best Vacation Ever. PMY

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From top left: Tell your charter broker what you like—swimming in remote coves, eating well, or just enjoying the sun with family and friends.







host Ship

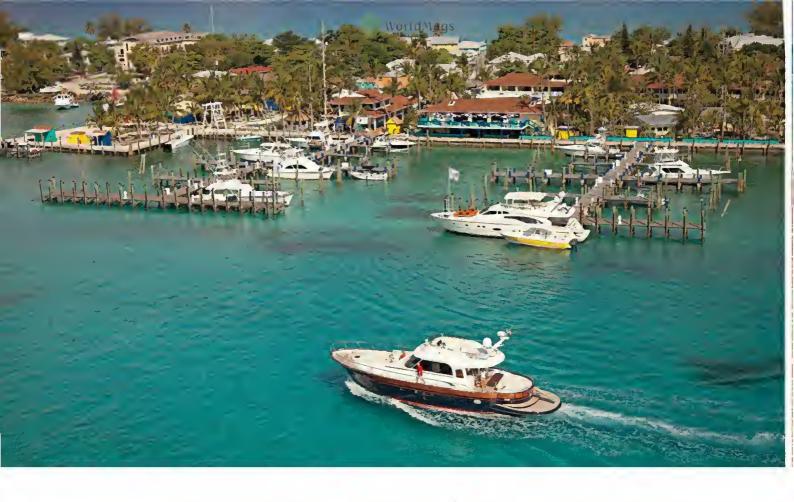
> A WAYPOINT FOR CRUISING YACHTSMEN, THE S.S. SAPONA HAS A HISTORY RIFE WITH MYSTERY AND INTRIGUE.

> > TEXT BY **KEVIN KOENIG**PHOTOS BY **JIM RAYCROFT**

ust south of Bimini, a ghostly apparition rises from the crystalline depths, a shipwreck so sun-bleached and battered it resembles the skeletal rib cage of some Leviathan, long-deceased and now resting peacefully in paradise. But this is no ordinary wreck, and the S.S. *Sapona* was no ordinary ship. She's got a history as colorful as the schools of tropical fish that flicker among her crevices and crags.

Perhaps the most curious thing about the *Sapona* is that she was constructed—somewhat counterintuitively—out of concrete. That's because during World War I, steel was a precious resource, and shipbuilders were pressed to find

Left: Though ravaged by the years, Sapona remains a popular recreational attraction.



alternative materials for hulls. The French had been using concrete to build boats as far back as 1848, but the material had enjoyed little popularity due to its excessive weight and resulting high operating costs. However, concrete itself was cheap and plentiful, and in the strange vagaries of a wartime economy where labor was plentiful but steel was not, its time had come round at last. Soon after he asked Congress for a declaration of war, Woodrow Wilson approved the Emergency Fleet Program, which commissioned 24 steel-and-reinforced-concrete ships to be constructed in order to aid the war effort.

Sapona was built by the Liberty Ship Building Company of Wilmington, North Carolina, and slid down the ways just a tad late to serve her country—in January 1920. Actually, because the war ended shortly after the United States became involved, only 12 of the 24 ordered



ships were ever built and very few of those in time to see action. But while most of her concrete sisters were destined for pedestrian careers as breakwaters and barges, *Sapona* was on a much different course—one charted for intrigue and ignominy.

After a brief stint in Miami where she was used for oil storage and dredge work, *Sapona* was sold to an Englishman named Bruce Bethel. Bethel is one of those myriad industrious and ephemeral characters that linger on the murky outskirts of history. He was no doubt something of a name in his day, yet the passing years have nearly swallowed him whole. An officer in the war, Bethel had lost an arm while serving and subsequently retired to Bimini where he became a rum smuggler of some renown. After purchasing the ship, Bethel towed her to a mooring just offshore, where he used her to store his prodigious stock of illegal liquors. He apparently had designs on turning the ship into a nightclub as well, but cruel fate would come howling across the Atlantic before his plans could reach fruition.

The Storm of 1926 was described by the U.S. Weather Bureau as "probably the most destructive hurricane ever to strike the United States." Indeed by some estimates it would claim the lives of 800 South Floridians, but not before first scouring Bimini with 150-mph winds and waves torn from the pages of the Book of Revelation. Sapona never stood a chance. The sea plucked up the ship and dropped her on a reef in 15 feet of water four miles away from Bimini. There it thrashed at the ship







until her stern ripped free, spilling all of her precious hooch into the water, gone forever. *Sapona's* three-limbed owner never recovered financially, though he would stagger on—allegedly with a tenuous grasp on his own sanity after an incident in which he was cast adrift at sea, clinging to a piece of timber in shark-filled waters—until he died penniless in 1950. And thus ends the woeful tale of the rumrunner Bruce Bethel.

But Sapona's story was far from over. At the outbreak of World War II, U.S. Army Air Force and Navy brass quickly realized that the vessel would provide excellent target practice for their fighter planes and bombers. And so day after day, warplanes on training missions strafed the ship to Swiss cheese with deadly 50mm machine gun rounds and bombs. It was just such a mission that would further cement Sapona in the history books. On December 5, 1945, a squadron of five TBM Avenger torpedo bombers led by Navy Lieutenant Charles Carroll Taylor took off from Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale (now Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport) headed for Sapona and the nearby Hens and Chickens Shoals. They made their runs there but after losing radio contact with the ground and becoming disoriented, the planes and the 14 men aboard disappeared-neither they nor any trace of them or their aircraft was ever seen again. Two rescue planes searching for them shortly after the disappearance vanished as well, thus sparking the legend of the Bermuda Triangle, one of the world's most enduring paranormal fascinations.



Today *Sapona*'s reputation has shed some of the harrowing patina of her past, and she is appreciated as a popular destination for the divers who still find 50mm casings on the surrounding sea bottom. Her bow is scarred with good-natured graffiti, and adrenaline-minded daredevils have rigged up a crude set of rappelling ropes amidships. For those familiar with the boat, it is considered a rite of passage to climb those ropes, navigate across *Sapona*'s bomb-ravaged carapace to her bow, and then launch themselves into the water some 40 feet below. Thrilling? Yes. Bold? For sure. But those (mostly young men) who dare to take the leap should take heed that they are not the first reckless hearts to know *Sapona*, and as long as that ancient ship crests defiantly from the sea, they surely will not be the last.

# Clockwise from top left: The wreck lies just outside Bimini's harbor. Docile stingrays expect a snack in the surrounding waters. If you climb on top of Sapona you'd be wise to watch your step. The doomed crew of the Lost Squadron, who never returned. The nearby cays are tender accessible.



think I'm, like, smack in the middle of the jungle," I said into my cell phone, checking in for the night with my girlfriend after a full day spent hopscotching through the Western Hemisphere. I had started out in New York, and from there flown to Miami, then on to San Jose, Costa Rica, and had finally been driven three hours on a dark and flood-prone rural road, all to get to the sleepy Pacific Coast town of Quepos. And I had just walked into my hotel room at the Si Como No resort, a small group of cottages nestled atop a steep hill and all but swallowed by dense rainforest. At night, the hotel is pitch black due to a dearth of lights perpetrated by its owner's (and seemingly nearly everyone else in Costa Rica's) eco-mindedness. As I groped like a blind man across the room towards a curtained, panoramic window which I could just make out in the low light, I wasn't quite sure what I had gotten myself into. When I gingerly pulled open the curtains, all I saw was the kind of dense, bottomless darkness that must have spawned the phrase "fear of God." "Yeah," I affirmed into the phone, "it must be jungle out there as far as you can see."

The next morning I awoke early and unusually refreshed and ambled back over to

the window to see the previously unseen. I flung open the curtain, and I'll never forget it—my jaw dropped. I was on a vista overlooking the mighty Pacific, an azure sky starkly contrasted against the steel-gray ocean. In the middle distance, a fist of island punched up out of the water, so densely vegetated it looked like a Chia Pet gone to seed. In the trees right in front of me small monkeys leapt back and forth screeching at one another—and what was that? To my right a prehistoric-looking thing that looked like a cross between a piglet and a deer scuttled off into the undergrowth. And all I could say was, "Whoa."



Left: The author battles one of the many large billfish caught off Quepos, Costa Rica, on a recent trip. The only thing hotter than the sun was the action.

PHOTOS BY KANUTTO FUENTES



I was in Costa Rica to visit Marina Pez Vela (*pez vela* means sailfish in Spanish), a full-service marina with high-end condos and a luxury shopping area under construction that has its hopes set on becoming a Mecca for boaters and sportfishermen alike. And it being February, I was in luck—it was sailfish season. Thirty-five miles out, probably just beyond where I could see from my hotel, the continental shelf broke off into deep water, creating a purported fisherman's paradise where giant Indo-Pacific sailfish—a significantly larger subspecies than their Atlantic Ocean cousins—gorged on dense wads of bait and free-jumped from the cerulean waters for reasons known to no one but themselves.

I was pumped to catch one of these things as well as maybe one of the species of marlin that populate the same waters. In my excitement I could be forgiven if—as the boat chugged from the docks in the early morning hours of our first day of fishing—I seemed somewhat disinterested when a marina employee pointed out the marina's cofferdams, a sturdy chain of cement monoliths encircling the development. "Those things are 38,000 tons a piece and built to withstand a 7.5 earthquake or a hundred-year storm," the employee bragged. "We wanted them because they're the biggest and baddest way to protect the boats in the marina." At the time, I dutifully made note of the coffers—thinking them a bit on the macho-overkill side—and retreated to my seat on the gunwale. But in retrospect, after the tsunami in Japan and all the other recent turmoil in the natural world, I can't help but think that having your boat under the aegis of such colossal brawn may well be wise.



After about an hour we reached the fishing grounds, dropped in our lines, and began to wait as the boat trolled steadily through the swells in S-shape pattems. Giant rays burst from the water off our bow and flopped back down in graceless freefall. A pitiless equatorial sun screamed down on our heads as the mates—Carlos and Gabriel—took cover behind silky balaclavas, calling to mind

Sandinista fighters as they scanned the water's surface relentlessly for signs of our prey. And still, we waited. As the morning slid toward noon the mates began to fidget. The captain, Reymond Rodriquez, seemed nervous as well, routinely calling in the baits and zipping over to fresh patches of ocean. In the distance, other sportfishing boats poked lazily along, even from afar their anticipation palpable on a near-windless sea.

The first fish hit with the urgency of a firefight, and the boat was instantly ablaze with frenetic action. The captain saw it first, the fish closing on the bait with lethal athleticism. "Tea-sirs! Tea-sirs! Tea-sirs!" he roared from the flying bridge as the fish approached, his otherwise impressive English losing its polish in the heat of the moment as he violently cranked in the teaser lines. The mates shot from their respective spots on the gunwales like two NFL defensive tackles bursting off the line. One set the hook as the other fitted me with the fighting belt, and then I began to reel. And reel.

The fish dove immediately after taking the bait, and we weren't sure what was on the other end of the line at first, though I knew sailfish usually range between 100 and 120 pounds and whatever was down there fighting for its life felt heavier than that. For a brief moment, the tug on the line abated. Instantaneously from above came the captain's shouts, "Reel! Reel! Reel! Here he comes!" The striped marlin rocketed across the ocean's surface like a runaway submarine, a thin sheen of smooth seawater rushing up over its head as the crew exploded in cheers. "Two-hundred pounds, easy!" shouted someone. I was sweating in the thick afternoon heat as I reeled, but I





couldn't stop grinning through clenched teeth. Then suddenly, having spent all of its pop in the initial charge, the fish relented, and I hauled him boatside for our first catch.

Landing that first marlin was cool, but what I really wanted to do was catch a sailfish. With an all-out speed of 68 mph, it's the fastest swimming thing in the world and considered by many to be the ultimate big game fish. However, with five other guys onboard who were now ahead of me in line to catch the next fish, I wasn't sure if I'd get a chance that day.

My doubts soon quieted as the fish began to chew. Within a few hours everyone onboard had landed either a good-sized sailfish or, in one case, a black marlin approaching 300 pounds. And now it was my turn again. From the gunwale I gazed sternly out over the glittering ocean, as if I had any chance of spotting a fish before the skilled crew, who now stood side-by-side like sentries at the transom.

My sailfish hit the hook like a dart slamming into a dartboard, and the cockpit again exploded with cheers as the fish launched seven feet straight up in the air. "It's a jumper!" yelled the captain, hoarse now. He wasn't lying. The fish was a true acrobat and must have pulled out every trick in its repertoire to try and shake free. It repeatedly tail-walked back and forth across the water's surface like some piscine MC Hammer, moving so fast it looked like someone had hit fast forward on the remote. At one point it ducked over to our starboard side, shot up to the surface, and thrashed its head in the air, its vaguely sentient eye brimming with an emotion somewhere between indignant rage and mortal terror. Then

it dove, zipping around the stern with astonishing speed, the line crackling through the water. "Holy..." I muttered, reeling furiously to pick up the slack. But the slack kept coming as the fish boomeranged up from the depths at a near 90-degree angle to the seafloor, very close to the stern, its powerful tail driving aside great swaths of water, its sail rigid in defiance. Nearer the surface it rushed, from black water into the greenish murk where the sunlight pierces the abyss, and then it erupted from the surface like a missile, its lithe, nearly nine-foot-long body climbing higher and higher into the air not 15 feet off our stern.

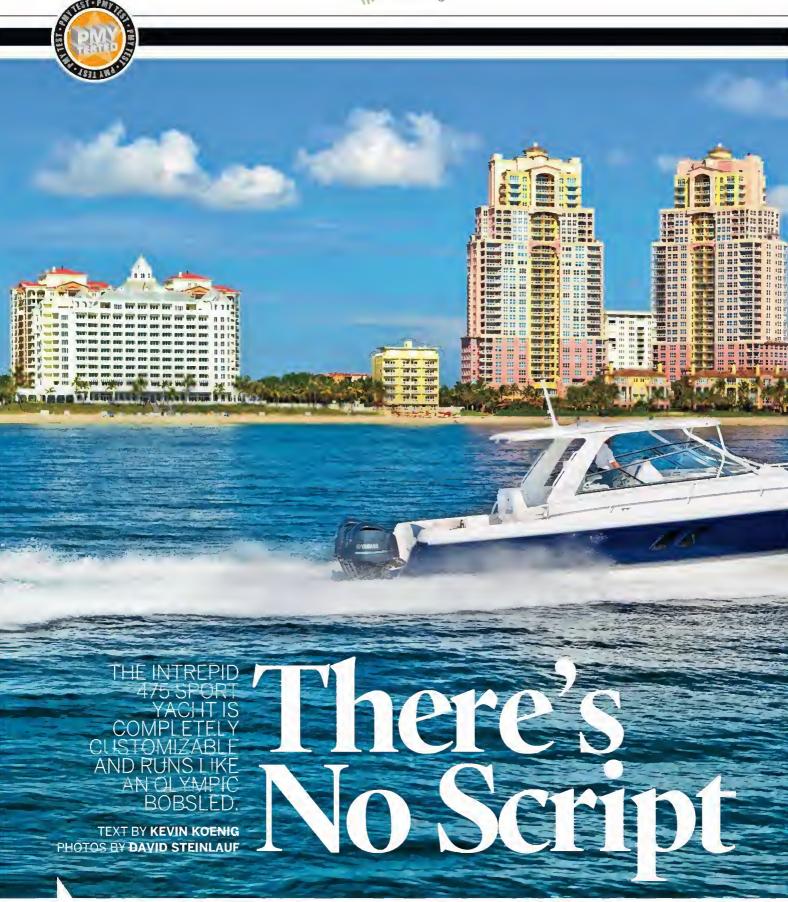
Time slowed down for me as the fish reached its zenith, its body now perfectly parallel to the water. The sailfish was a shard of iridescence in the clear air, all acute angles and brilliant blues and greens. Again I saw its eye—this time much calmer than before, and glinting almost as if it were smiling. The animal hung there for one surreal moment, frozen in time and space, our eyes intently locked. Then its mouth began to move-and it spoke. "Not today, muchacho," seethed the fish, an instant before breaking free of the line and torpedoing off into the deep. From behind me, cries of dismay rang out from my companions, each one laying out in greater and greater detail how close I had come to landing that beautiful fish. But standing flush against the transom, the rod now light in my hands, my jaw still slack, all I could say in return was "Whoa." PMY

### MARINA PEZ VELA

(866) 739-8352. (506) 2774-9000 (LOCAL). WWW.MARINAPEZVELA.COM.



Clockwise from top left: Reel Easy leaves the confines of Marina Pez Vela. A mate rigs up some tasty ballyhoo. The crew pull a marlin alongside the boat as the author and others look on. Spot the fake. The marina is an ideal home for a fishing boat.



Running anywhere near the top of her RPM range, the 475 will no doubt turn heads. She's big, sleek, exceptionally agile, and



### **EXCLUSIVE: INTREPID 475 SPORT**



she just flat-out flies. Those four burly Yammie 350s definitely can take care of business.

blame my father.

He writes with his left hand, and I learned handwriting from watching him. Only problem is, I'm a righty. Thusly, everything I've ever produced from a pen has been smudgy chicken-scratch. So imagine what it looks like when I write down speed, rpm, and fuel burn on *PMY*'s boat-test charts as I fly around on the water trying to log different vessels' performance numbers. It's a mess.

Shortly after starting at *PMY*, I learned to transcribe my notes upon returning to the dock. Otherwise I'd have to spend a good chunk of time back at my desk in New York poring over my charts trying to divine just what exactly I meant by that squiggly piece of hieroglyphic I wrote under fuel burn. Is that a nine or a four? I'm pretty sure it's a nine. (No way that's a four, right?)

But a funny thing happened on the way back to the docks after testing Intrepid's flagship, the 475 Sport Yacht, just off the west coast of Florida recently. When I glanced at my chart, I noticed my handwriting looked exactly the same at 1000 rpm as it did at wide open throttle (6000 rpm). And uh, it wasn't exactly like we were puttering around out there. The Intrepid's four 350hp Yamaha V8s had us screaming across the water at upwards of 60 mph. Not that you could tell. The boat's modified-V stepped hull is so expertly designed and her acceleration is so sublimely smooth that 60 mph felt closer to a more pedestrian 40. I was distinctly reminded of the first (and only) time I drove a BMW 7-series, and hit 100 mph on the Long Island Expressway without even realizing it on a trip out to Quogue. Suffice to say: This boat goes. And at speeds like that, and



Top: A cozy aft master with en suite head awaits. Above: That table converts into a third berth. Note the bulletproof portlights.



### **EXCLUSIVE: INTREPID 475 SPORT**

with an LOA approaching 50 feet, watching her run flat-out from shore should rightfully be considered a spectator sport.

But this boat doesn't just excel at straight-line speed. Her S-turns were fluid and totally controlled even with the hammer all the way down. And at a cruise speed of 51 mph, she turned hardover in just under two boat lengths. At 35 mph, she did it in one.

Ken Clinton, president of Intrepid, proudly maintains that his boats have no competitors, and during a tour of his plant in Largo, Florida, he set out to substantiate his bold claim to Capt. Bill Pike and me. It soon became clear to us just why Clinton feels this way about his vessels. For one, they are completely customizable. Each boat is built specifically to an owner's needs. The owner signs a contract, puts down a deposit, and then works hand in hand with Intrepid to pick out all of the boat's features. This personalization process makes the 475 an incredibly versatile boat. Are you a serious fisherman? Opt for the aluminum half-tower and outriggers. Into scuba? Get Intrepid's

rock-solid dive door installed in the side of the boat. Then decide if you want it hinged down or in. Or maybe you're really living large (the company counts A-Rod and Jeff Gordon among its customers) and plan on using this 47-footer as a tender for your big boat. That's no problem at all. Intrepid offers special tow and tender packages. Heck, I was on a megayacht last year that had an Intrepid tender with a T-top that raised and lowered hydraulically to fit inside her garage. (That, my friends, was a big boat.)

My test boat was tricked out with, among other things, an electrically controlled dual-pedestal helm seat, a fiberglass arch with a hardtop and six lights, a hot-and-cold box transom shower, bulletproof (yes, bulletproof) hull-side windows, one of those dive doors to port (fold-out), a transom door to starboard, enough fire-extinguishing equipment to douse a bon-fire, and a partridge in an exquisitely manicured, Nepalese-grown pear tree. But you can get your 475 with whatever amenities you like.

It's not hard to see where the genesis of Intrepid's focus on customization lies. Clinton stares at me blankly for a second when I ask him how he makes his boats so unique. "It's just fiberglass," he eventually chuckles, "I'll cut it, stretch it, whatever." He seemed a little incredulous that every boat company doesn't build its boats to order like his does.

Indeed, the attention to detail in the Intrepid factory borders on fetishistic. In particular, the company has always staked its reputation on having outstanding fit and finish, and as we walk into that part of the factory Clinton noticeably lights up. He refers to the workers here as "artists" and says that with enough care and elbow grease, they can make boat parts look like



### **The Basics**

Standard equipment:

Latham power steering; electronic Yamaha controls; tinned wiring throughout; 4/automatic bilge pumps; 2/ aluminum fuel tanks; pressurized freshwater system; insulated fishbox in cockpit; wet bar integrated into helm station; electric MSD; cabin lights w/ dimmer switches; 9/integrated hullside port lights; 8kw Kohler diesel generator w/ separate 25-gallon fuel tank; dual system

A/C for cabin, 18,000-Btu and 7,000-Btu units respectively; insulated cockpit cooler w/ overboard drain; hull reinforced with Keylar

Optional equipment on test boat: Blue Sea 60-Hz shore power system; additional Super Switches for high-water alarms; custom dualpedestal helm seat w/ electric controls; custom textured dash paint; dive door in port hullside; easy access remote dipstick for generator; fiberglass arch w/ hardtop and six lights; helm fire extinguisher fixed in fiberglass bucket; high/low electrically actuated V-berth table; hot and cold box shower in transom; 4/Racor fuel filters; removable rear bench seat; Yamaha fuel filters

**Optional power:** various outboard configurations

**Base price:** \$675,000

**Above:** The high level of fit and finish is on full display in the galley cabinetry.





jet parts. With all the buffing, sanding, blasting, and spraying that was going on around us, I'd have to agree. At one point Clinton gestures to a fiberglass wall with a fully flush fiberglass door, which once installed would lead to the 475's head. "Most people don't really get as excited about the fit-and-finish stuff as me," he says. "You might say, 'But Ken, it's just a wall,' and I'll say, 'Yeah, but it's a sexy wall." And he's right. It's perfectly curved, perfectly smooth, and perfectly cut. It is a sexy wall. I never thought I'd write that sentence.

However Intrepid doesn't build its boats just to win beauty pageants. If you're banging around out on the water at 50 or 60 mph, you're going to want something sturdy underneath you. To that point, two things in particular struck me about Intrepid's building process. First, Intrepid hulls are inlaid with Kevlar, a nice complement to the bullet-proof hull windows, I suppose. And second, unlike some builders who view vertical structures on boats—cabinets for example—simply as added-on compartments, Intrepid actually integrates them into the hull in effect creating vertical stringers. The payoff for this technique comes

in the boat's ride, which is smooth and imbued with an exceptionally solid feel. "This all may sound like overkill," Clinton offers, driving home his point, "but I don't get phone calls [from unhappy owners] later. My boats don't break."

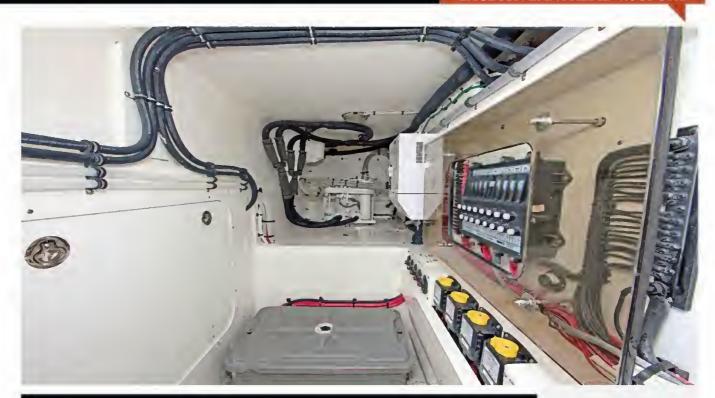
Needless to say, this relentless attention to detail and craft does not come cheap, even with Intrepid's factory-direct sales model, which eliminates dealers and mitigates price. If you want the 475, you'll still be ponying up roughly three-quarters of a million dollars for an outboard-powered boat, a price which may seem high to the uninitiated.

But as with most things in life, with Intrepid you get what you pay for. And if I had a spare \$750K lying around to spend on a boat, I just might end up writing a check. Whether anybody'd actually be able to read it is another story entirely. PMY

### **■ INTREPID POWERBOATS**

(954) 922-7544. WWW.PMYMAG.COM/INTREPID.

**Top:** The driver's seat is the place to be on this boat. If you think this looks a little like a rocketship, you'd be absolutely right.



### PMY's Numbers | Intrepid 475 Sport Yacht

rpm	mph	knots	gph	mpg	nmpg	range	nm range	db	angle
1000	7.8	6.6	13.2	0.59	0.51	257	224	68	1.0
2000	11.5	9.8	18.6	0.62	0.54	269	234	72	3.5
3000	24.1	20.5	36.2	0.67	0.58	290	252	82	4.5
4000	37.9	32.2	53.0	0.72	0.62	311	271	86	4.5
5000	50.9	43.3	85.4	0.60	0.52	260	226	89	3.5
6000	60.2	51.2	135.4	0.44	0.39	194	168	93	2.5

### vitals

**Propulsion:** 4/350-hp Yamaha

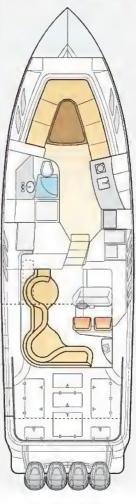
4/350-hp Yamaha V8s; Yamaha gears w/ 1.73:1; Yamaha XL SDS 15x19 props LOA x Beam: 47'5" x 13'8" Draft: 3'0"

Weight (dry):

21,000 lbs.

Fuel: 484 gal. Water: 100 gal. Std. power: 4/300-hp Mercury V6s Cabins: 1 master, 1 guest, 1 convertible guest berth Price as tested: \$750,000 Conditions: temp: 82°F; humidity: 90%; wind: 5 mph; seas: 2'; load: 320 gal. fuel, 70 gal. water, 4 persons, 100 lbs. gear; Speeds are two-way averages measured w/ Stalker radar gun. GPH taken via Yamaha display. Range 90% of advertised fuel capacity. Decibels measured on A scale. 65 dB-A is the level of normal conversation.

Above: All the lines and wiring in the machinery space were tidy and seamanlike.







## Long-Distance

TO WHAT LENGTH WILL PMY GO TO TEST A NEW FULL-DISPLACEMENT TRAWLER NAUTICAL MILES! TEXT BY CAPT. BILL PIKE PHOTOS BY BILLY BLACK



The shape of Kadey-Krogen's Pure Full Displacement hull is essentially the same for all models. A fine bow and wine-glass transom



# Rumner FROM KADEY-KROGEN? OH. ABOUT 800

engender end-to-end symmetry and give the 48 a safe, gentle, and comfortable ride.

o how totally cool can one moment afloat be? Our Kadey-Krogen 48 AE (Advanced Ergonomics) was purring north on Chesapeake Bay, with the mouth of the Choptank River to starboard and salty breezes wafting through the wheelhouse, thanks to our open Dutch doors. Picturesque Thomas Point Shoal lighthouse waited invitingly somewhere ahead, with our destination—Annapolis not far beyond. And all four of us had a couple of freshly grilled hot dogs—a favorite of mine, despite the guff I get about eating junk foodon our plates, each ensconced in a fresh bun with a thick strip of piquant mustard on top.

I'd cooked the modest repast up myself, by the way, on the Magma propane grill in the cockpit while Capt. Gregg Gandy, Kadey-Krogen project manager, circuited the decks getting lines ready for our arrival, and owners Karen and Perry Stickles stood watch on the flying bridge with some Jefferson Airplane thruming coolly from the sound system.

The dogs were delightful in my opinion, although sadly enough, compliments to the chef failed to materialize. The glories of the moment, I suppose, were obfuscating culinary concerns, what with the bright watery world slipping by, the end of a long, lovely trip not far off, and one final but fun task to perform: the official *PMY* sea trial.

Odd perhaps, but although we'd traveled well over 800 NM together onboard the 48 (our cruising story will appear in a future issue) making a six-day-five-night passage up the coast from Kadey-Krogen's offices in Stuart, Florida, various concerns had prevented us from doing an official wring-out thus far.



**Top:** The master has three hanging lockers and a dozen-plus drawers. **Above:** Ekornes recliners lend at-home livability to the saloon.



Of course, I'd already drawn a few conclusions based on the trip. For starters, the 48 seemed distinctly untrawleresque in terms of maneuverability. More to the point, the second day out, we'd hooked into an eight-foot blue marlin some 100 NM east of Jacksonville, and thanks to the boat's big prop and torquey gear ratio, as well as her powerful ABT Trac hydraulic bow and stern thrusters, we'd backed down on the fish in true battlewagon style. "Do trawlers do such things?" Karen had asked Gandy afterwards.

"Not ordinarily," he replied with a great big grin.

Then there was seaworthiness. All Kadey-Krogens share a Pure Full Displacement (PFD) hull form, a trademark feature designed by naval architect James S. Krogen decades ago. The 48's version produced a comfortable, confidence-inspiring ride thanks to her buoyant, sailboat-like wineglass transom, fine entry, and fully ballasted, short-radiused bilges in between. The first part of our journey was rough, with sixto-eight-footers coming in from the starboard quarter courtesy of a

distant hurricane. While the 48 evinced the occasional tendency to roll deeply even with her ABT stabilizers deployed, the movement was never snappy or lazy.

The engine room added another high point. Although I made numerous ritual visits while standing watches, my admiration for the place never faltered. The single John Deere diesel was 360-degrees accessible. Hydraulics for stabilizers and thrusters were equally easy to get at and see, with fittings for fuel lines, filters, tanks, sightglasses, sea-strainers, vented loops, and genset components following suit.

Then finally, there was the 48's homestyle comfort. I discovered on the first night out that our back-porchy cockpit was an excellent spot to unfold a deck chair, pop open a bag of Cheetos, and contemplate the universe. Moreover, I discovered the next day that in terms of frying up fresh mahi-mahi, the Viking range, residentialstyle GE reefer, and inventory of cabinets, drawers, and lockers in the U-shape galley were the equal of any top-shelf kitchen ashore. And the layout! With its raised pilothouse and saloon/dinette/galley on the main deck and two large staterooms below, it was indeed ergonomically advanced (i.e., elbowroomy and comfortable), even under sporty conditions.

"Ready, Capt. Bill?" Perry asked excitedly. He'd taken over the wheelhouse helm seat while his wife sat on the watch berth just behind, ready to copy test data. Both were obviously antsy to see some empirically derived data concerning their brandnew vessel.

The numbers that ensued betokened a true long-distance runner. At hull speed (approximately 9 knots), fuel burn was just 6 gph, a modest amount that extends range to over 1,300 NM. At 7.7 knots, the burn was even lovelier, with only 2.6 gph



### The Basics

### Standard equipment:

ZF electronic engine controls; Edson steering wheels; Pompanette helm chairs; Diamond Sea Glaze windows and doors; Viking range/oven; GE galley appliances (refrigerator, dishwasher, trash compactor, microwave/convection oven, washer/dryer); Raritan water heater; 12kW Northern Lights genset; 72,000-Btu Cruisair A/C;

6/Lifeline batteries (1 main, 1 genset, 4 house); 40-amp battery charger and 3,200-watt/100-amp inverter/charger from Charles Industries; 2/Sealand VacuFlush MSDs; Maxwell rope/chain windlass; Freeman Marine deck hatch

**Optional equipment on test boat:** ABT Trac bow thruster, stern thruster, and stabilizers; electronics package (3/Garmin GPSMap 7215s, GHS10, GMi10, and Standard Horizon Eclipse DSC VHF); Reverso oil-exchanger; ESI fuel-management system; Steelhead davit; 4/Rule 2,000-gph bilge pumps with high-water alarms

Optional power: none

**Base price:** \$1,100,000

**Above:** The lounge in the office/guest stateroom easily converts to a berth.



required to more than double the range.

There were other noteworthy findings, too. Sound levels in the wheelhouse were whisper-quiet. Only one sound level (66 dB-A at 2250 rpm) exceeded the level of normal conversation. Running attitudes were low (a trait typical of full-displacement vessels), although I noted a somewhat unusual (but wholly innocuous) tendency to tip slightly forward at and below 2000 rpm, a phenomenon unexplainable either by me or Kadey-Krogen's naval architect David Glasco. And tracking, even in big quartering seas, was arrow-straight.

We made Annapolis later that afternoon and the typical end-of-the-voyage hullabaloo ensued. All kinds of folks came aboard. Then, just as I was telling the Stickles how much I admired the seaworthiness and comfort of their Kadey-Krogen 48 AE, the day's second totally cool moment afloat occurred.

"Hey, Bill," Karen yelled as I shouldered my sea bag, "Those hot dogs were yummy. Just yummy!" PMY

### **■ KADEY-KROGEN YACHTS**

(800) 247-1230.

WWW.PMYMAG.COM/KADEY-KROGEN.

Top: Wing doors on both sides of the wheelhouse help with docking. Above: Owners Karen and Perry Stickles—happy campers!

### **EXCLUSIVE: KADEY-KROGEN 48 AE**





rpm	mph	knots	gph	mpg	nmpg	range	nm range	db	angle
1000	5.1	4.4	0.7	7.21	6.27	6,493	5,646	56	-0.25
1250	6.3	5.4	1.1	5.68	0.42	5,114	4,447	56	-0.5
1500	7.8	6.7	1.8	4.31	0.30	3,875	3,370	57	-0.5
1 <b>75</b> 0	8.8	7.7	2.6	3.38	0.26	3,046	2,649	59	-0.5
2000	9.6	8.3	3.8	2.53	0.24	2,274	1,977	59	-0.5
22 <b>5</b> 0	10.5	9.1	6.0	1.74	0.23	1,568	1,363	66	0.0
2500	10.7	9.3	8.8	1.22	0.21	1,094	952	65	0.5
2645	10.5	9.1	11.7	0.90	0.78	808	702	65	0.5



Propulsion:

**Draft:** 5'0"

1/201-bhp
John Deere
6068TFM75; Twin
Disc MG-305-15C
w/ 3:1 ratio;
32x21 Hung Shen
4-blade bronze
LOA x Beam:
53'0" x 17'4"

Weight (half load): 56,450 lbs. Fuel: 1,000 gal. Water: 400 gal. Std. power: 1/201-bhp John Deere 6068TFM75 Cabins: 1 master,

1 guest Price as tested:

\$1,450,000 **Conditions:** 

temp: 88°F; humidity: 85%; wind: variable, light; seas: 1'; load: 667 gal. fuel, 200 gal. water, 4 persons, 2,500 lbs. gear; Speeds are two-way averages measured w/ Stalker radar gun. *GPH* taken via engine display. *Range* 90% of advertised fuel capacity. *Decibels* measured on A scale. 65 dB-A is the level of normal conversation.

**Above:** The ER offers unencumbered access to the main once the protective rail's removed.







### **Limitless Luxury**

Aboard Absolute's newest sport yacht, the compromises are few and well considered.

### Absolute 64

The Absolute 64's proportions are nearly perfectly balanced, an accomplishment abetted by the absence of a flying bridge, which yields the unmarred sleekness of an artillery shell.

The 64's focus is on the sun: A forward sunpad blends into a bench seat and bi-fold teak cocktail table, and it morphs into a chaise. The aft pad is bigger and covers the garage beneath. More sun is available inside if you open the sunroof over the saloon, although light is abundant without it.

The starboard helm hints at Absolute's focus on performance. Sightlines are excellent all around, and comfortable leather helm seats fold to create bolsters.

The boat was equipped with four 435-hp IPS600s; twin 850-hp IPS1200s are also available. I can't imagine helm response could be better. Speed topped out at 38.5 mph, and fuel efficiency hovered around 0.5 mpg for most of the mid-range, on par with similar pod-drive boats.

The three-cabin layout is civilized. Any boat under 80 feet with a tender garage has to compromise on aft space, and IPS makes this trade-off painless. Without the garage, the 64 would not be nearly so sleek. Is a loss of engine-room accessibility worth the gain in pulchritude? Absolutely.

### **Specifications**

Length Overall (LOA):	62'11"
Beam:	15'8"
Draft:	4'5"
Weight:	73,800 lbs.
Fuel Capacity:	792 gal.
Water Capacity:	172 gal.

For complete specs, visit pmymag.com/boat-tests









### **High Flyer**

This 64-foot Italian import offers a blend of speed, grace, and class.

### **Azimut 64 Flybridge**

Azimut's 64 bears the hopes of an entire shipyard on her elegant shoulders. Sticking with the reliably innovative design partnership of Carlo Galeazzi for the interiors and Stefano Righini's sleek exterior styling is perhaps less a sign of Azimut's conservatism than of its confidence. These two designers are responsible for some influential motoryachts in recent years, many from Azimut or its sister company Benetti.

The 64 is a three-cabin boat with an amidships master suite, forward VIP, and a twin-berth guest cabin. A big, open, bar-style galley sets a sociable tone on the main deck. She's a well-thought-out cruiser, designed to cosset the family in considerable style.

Out on the water the new 64 is a rocketship. Just one engine option is available—twin 1,150-mhp Caterpillar C18s—and the engineers have matched hull geometry, weight, and horsepower with notable success. In a class of vessel where anything under 20 seconds from a standing start to reach 20 knots is generally reckoned to be fine, our test showed the 64 Flybridge blasting through that speed in half the time, reaching 30 knots in 16 seconds.

Azimut can probably afford to be quietly confident that it has another winner on its hands.

### **Specifications**

66'1"
16'7"
5'0"
61,728 lbs. (dry)
1,030 gal.
259 gal.









### Game On

Beneteau's newest fast trawler proves it's serious about attracting American cruisers.

### Beneteau Swift Trawler 44

The Swift Trawler 44 replaces the 42 and is a vast improvement over it. The hull is unchanged, which is a good thing since it's a fine design. This is no trawler in the classic sense. Her chines are hard, and she planes effortlessly and without excessive bow rise. However, like a displacement vessel, she's stable and her keel tracks well.

The title of Swift Trawler is warranted in that a top speed of better than 27 mph is definitely untrawler-like and she is efficient. The 44 sports asymmetrical side decks to give her an interior that is amenable to American-style cruising—actually living on the boat for three or four days at a time. Beneteau designers outfitted the port side of the saloon with a bank of cabinets, added a U-shape galley, and gave the guest stateroom room for a queen-size mattress.

Any meaningful discussion of the 44 must include price: Simply put, it's enticing. A fair amount of standard equipment is included in the 44's base of \$436,000. It will be interesting to see if Americans take to her as readily as the French have. I suspect quite a few will be unable to resist that bottom line.

### **Specifications**

Length Overall (LOA): 45'6"	
Beam: 13'11"	
Draft: 3'5"	
Weight: 24,000 lbs. (dry)	
Fuel Capacity: 372 gal.	
Water Capacity: 169 gal.	









### **Radical Chic**

The Cruisers 48 Cantius offers IPS maneuverability, a split-level saloon & design sensibilities that rock.

### **Cruisers Yachts 48 Cantius**

Although I'd been favorably impressed with pre-production drawings of the Cruisers 48 Cantius Sports Coupe, I'd noted the boat's resemblance to the rest of the Cruisers fleet. But the vessel idling up the channel from the waters of Green Bay was different from those drawings.

The Cruisers design team had decided to toss in some two-fisted boldness, augmenting the creamy Euro-curves of the boat's profile with an array of aggressive style lines. The result reminded me of a BMW—lots of panache and chutzpah.

Her performance matched the look: The 48 acquitted herself with assurance and produced a solid top speed of 38 mph. Turning was tight and the ride dry.

The boat's interior is modern, with a dark hardwood deck, the thick countertops of gray Swanstone composite, and a futuristic instrument pod, all arrayed against a backdrop of white fiberglass and UltraLeather upholstery. The layout juxtaposes two saloons on different levels via an open stainwell. The upper saloon on the main deck offers the helm, an entertainment center, wet bar, and a U-shape sofa with dinette table. The lower saloon has a galley, and an L-shape sofa.

The Cruisers 48 Cantius is stylish and innovative both inside and out.

### **Specifications**

Length Overall (LOA):	48'6"
Beam: 1	4'6"
Draft:	3'6"
Weight:	32,700 lbs.
Fuel Capacity:	400 gal.
Water Capacity:	200 gal.









### Super Star

Spencer Yachts and Volvo Penta build a custom battlewagon that does it all.

### Spencer 70

The triple-IPS Spencer 70 Enclosed Bridge showcases the first high-horse-power Volvo Penta IPS III propulsion plants used on a recreational vessel, and sported other advanced technologies.

The 70 was slippery, turning in an operating efficiency of .32 mpg, a figure that exceeds a comparable conventionally inboard-powered 70-footer we recently tested by almost 30 percent. Such economy is due to the efficiency of pod propulsion, and high-tech construction is also involved. The 70 is super-light, thanks mostly to longitudinally framed major components laminated with epoxy and cored with Corecell; teak furnishings cored with Tri-Cell; and smaller engines and fuel tanks thanks to IPS efficiency.

Her electric steering system let me take S-curves up-sea with thumb and forefinger alone, bopping back and forth across the axis of the waves.

Zooming through Lake Worth Inlet back to our marina, the 70 combined nose-up balance (with consistent 4.5-degree running attitudes), excellent visibility, and four large Nauticomp flatscreens showing nav data, FLIR, radar, Octoplex, and more.

Lake Worth's Parker Avenue Bridge had a glitch, and we had to wait an hour before it opened. We used Volvo's Dynamic Positioning System, which employs two GPS receivers, to maintain both station and heading, despite a significant current.

### **Specifications**

Length Overall (LOA):	70'4"
Beam:	20'0"
Draft:	5'1"
Weight:	98,000 lbs.
Fuel Capacity:	1,380 gal.
Water Capacity:	320 gal.









### **Turkish Traveler**

This 78-footer combines a classic profile, a modern interior, and generous cruising range.

### Vicem 78

I've seen a number of cold-molded mahogany Vicems, and nearly all featured the Turkish builder's trademark, mahogany interior. But that image was shattered by the company's 78 Cruiser. Passing through sliding doors from the cockpit into the saloon brought me into a contemporary, voluminous saloon, airy and flooded with light. The saloon windows run the length of the house and help open up the space.

Below, the full-beam master stateroom has generous stowage and windows that open. Guest accommodations include a forepeak VIP, a double-berth guest stateroom, and a bunk cabin.

With her fuel load of 2,168 gallons, the boat can cruise nonstop for more than 650 statute miles at a speed of 16.2 mph while her standard 900-hp MAN diesels are burning a comparatively modest 48 gph. The 78 had a top speed of 17.7 mph, which at an 84-gph fuel burn, offers an effective range of 411 statute miles.

A top speed of just under 18 mph means the 78 Cruiser is obviously all about ride and range. She banked predictably inboard in hard turns and reacted to wheel input in real-time fashion. All in all, the Vicem 78 Cruiser proved herself to be a comfortable at-sea companion.

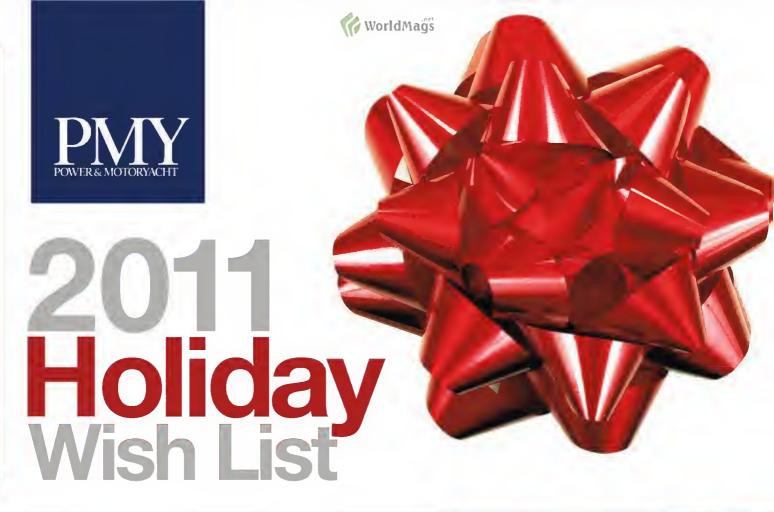
### **Specifications**

Length Overall (LOA):	83'0"
Beam:	21'0"
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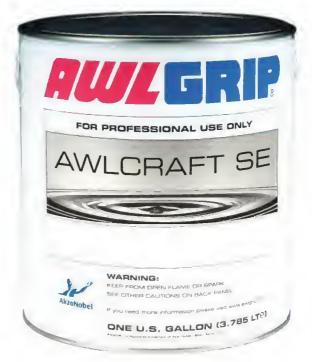




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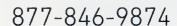
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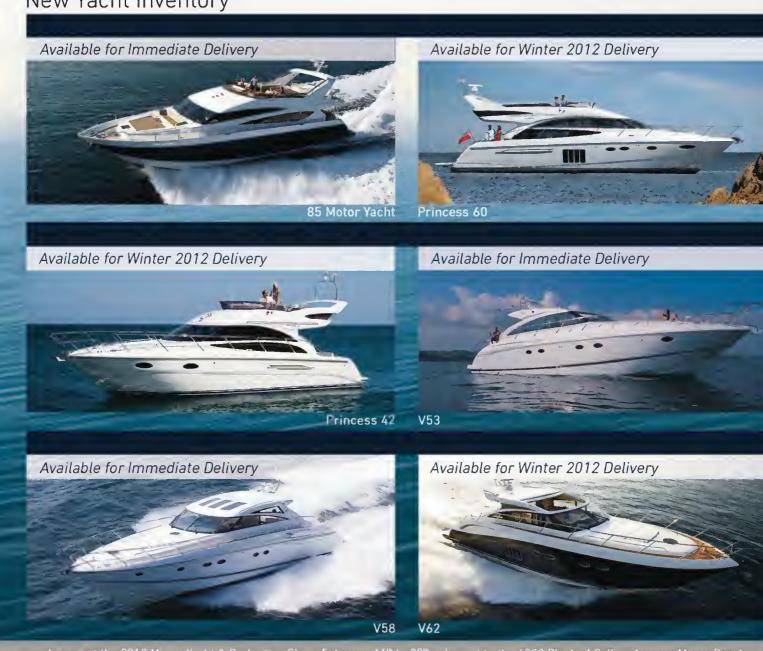
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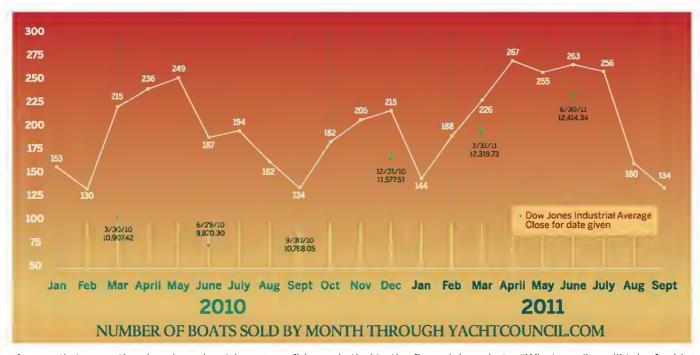




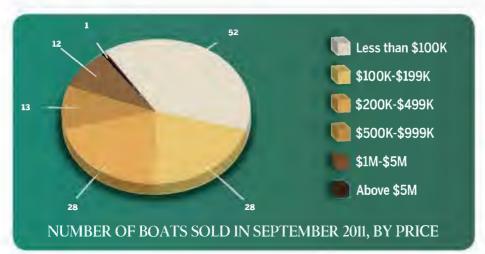
### ROKE

BREAKING OUT THE LATEST BOAT-SALES DATA FROM YACHT COUNCIL. TEXT BY JASON Y. WOOD

### Demand Follows the Dow



As month-to-month sales show, boat-buyer confidence is tied to the financial markets. "What a seller will take for his boat changes day by day, often due to financial market conditions," says Crom Littlejohn, a broker at Merle Wood and Associates in Fort Lauderdale. "If he frees up his cash, it allows him to invest it elsewhere."



Buyers are looking for value—and that means finding newer pre-owned boats. "If I were a guy out looking to buy a boat—looking to own a boat—I'd just start making bona fide offers," says Littlejohn, "and see who's going to take my offer."



#### Ekkoh

This 2006 Ocean Alexander 58 is powered by twin 700-hp Caterpillar C-12 diesels with just 202 hours, and she sold after 201 days on the market.

Photo courtesy of Emerald Pacific Yachts

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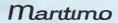
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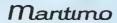
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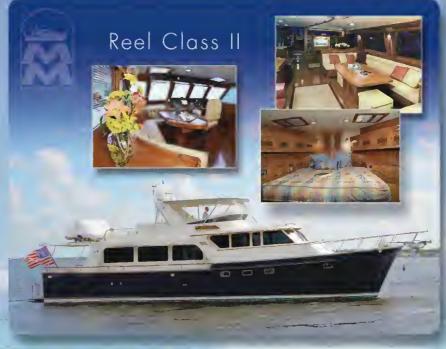
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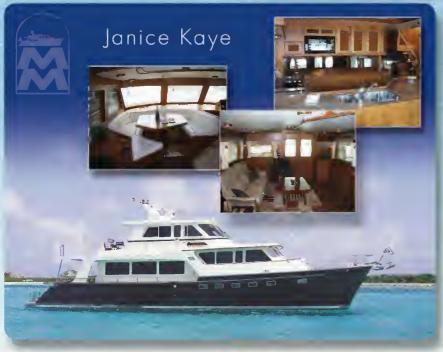
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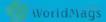




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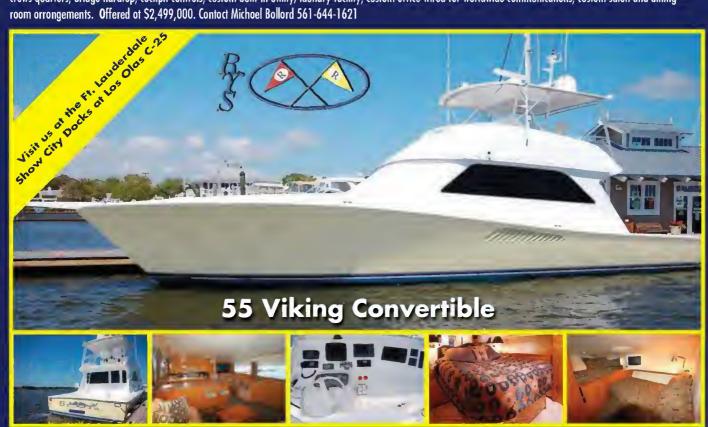
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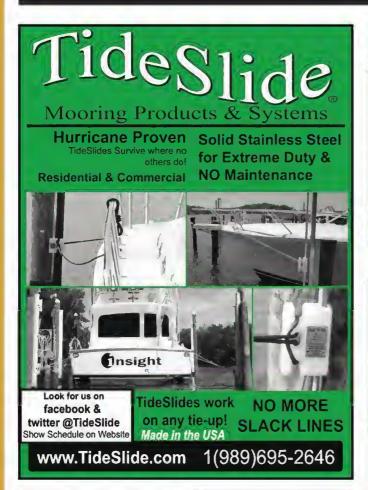
















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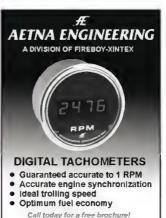
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# AFTER WORD

A BOATER WANTS TO SHARE HIS LIFELONG LOVE WITH HIS FAMILY

TEXT BY PETER A. JANSSEN

# High Hopes

oating, so the theory goes, is good for kids. It brings families together, it builds quality time, it creates memories. All great concepts. But, from my experience, be careful what you wish for.

Many years ago I brought three of my four children along for a long-planned, much-anticipated vacation on my new boat, a Grand Banks 36. I'd just been divorced,

and I thought the boat would be the platform for us all to be together again. I had dreams of blue skies, lots of laughter, warmth, and family bonding. We would all start a new portion of our lives together, afloat. The possibilities were endless.

The boat was in Fort Lauderdale, and I flew them in from various points on the East and West Coasts so we could go down to Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo for a few days after Christmas. Once we cleared Port Everglades Inlet, I realized that the seas were a bit lumpy but sitting happily on the flying bridge, that didn't bother me. Until I realized that one by one the kids had gone below. I looked down. All three of them were lined up on the leeward rail, sick as dogs. I headed inside at Baker's Haulover, and we stayed inside the rest of the voyage. They all were heartened, to say the least, when we tied up at Ocean Reef and then later back at Fort Lauderdale. Boating clearly was not going to be a family endeavor.

I kept trying. After I brought the boat up to Norwalk Cove in Connecticut I took my son, then 13, for a weekend cruise up to Essex. Just the two of us; a father-son weekend. When we got there, the only space was a tight fit on the face dock behind a big Hatteras. If this was going to work, we needed to get a midships spring line around a piling before the current pushed us into the Hatteras. (Did I say this was a single-screw Grand Banks, without any thrusters? Docking was interesting under the best circumstances.) My son was on deck, line in hand. I nudged us into position, just right, and said, "Now." Immobile, he said, "No." No? Fortunately, I hit reverse before we hit the Hatteras and we went around again. Needless to say, we had a fairly tense father-son



discussion that evening. This bonding thing wasn't going so well.

Obviously I'm a slow learner. After I remarried, my wife and I took my youngest daughter, who was then about nine (too young for the earlier Ocean Reef trip) on our summer cruise to Nantucket. She was a good sport, but boating clearly was not her thing. Boring. The mere mention of Buzzards Bay, with its infamous chop, would make her sick. Terra firma beckoned.

But time passes, things change. Last summer I had an offer of a Grand Banks 36, a sistership to our old boat, from Northwest Explorations in Bellingham, Washington, for a charter in the San Juans. My wife couldn't go, so on an off chance, I called my daughter, then a junior in college in Los Angeles. Sure, she said. When we dimbed on the boat she headed for the forward cabin, her cabin, and settled in as if she'd lived there forever. Over the next few days she drove the boat, navigated, helped tie up. An old salt. We had a great father-daughter reunion, one of the best times ever. When we climbed off the boat back in Bellingham she asked if we could do this again. Maybe I could get a boat in L.A., and we could go out with some of her friends... PMY

Peter A. Janssen is former editorial director of Yachting and MotorBoating and former editor-in-chief and publisher of Motor Boating & Sailing. He has cruised extensively along both coasts of the United States, the Atlantic, South Pacific, the Med, and even the Volga. He lived for several years on a Grand Banks 36 and also has driven a 47-foot Fountain at 162 mph.

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